



This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

### **Usage guidelines**

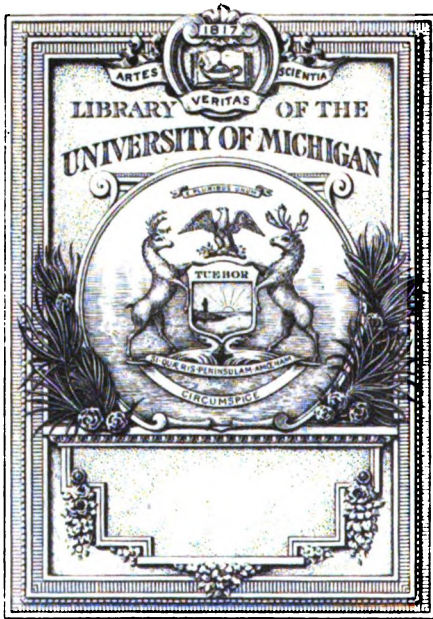
Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

- + *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
- + *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
- + *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
- + *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

### **About Google Book Search**

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at <http://books.google.com/>





DA  
879  
.561







THE NEW  
STATISTICAL ACCOUNT  
OF  
SCOTLAND.  
VOL. IV.

247

THE NEW  
STATISTICAL ACCOUNT  
OF  
SCOTLAND.

BY

THE MINISTERS OF THE RESPECTIVE PARISHES, UNDER THE  
SUPERINTENDENCE OF A COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIETY  
FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE SONS AND  
DAUGHTERS OF THE CLERGY.

VOL. IV.

DUMFRIES—KIRKCUDBRIGHT—WIGTON.

WILLIAM BLACKWOOD AND SONS,  
EDINBURGH AND LONDON.

MDCCCXLV.



24

24

JUN 28 1916

DUMFRIES.



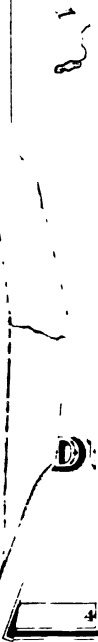
## CONTENTS.

---

ANNAN, . . . . .	PAGE 516
APPLEGARTH AND SIBBALDBIE, . . . . .	170
CAERLAVEROCK, . . . . .	349
CANONBIE, . . . . .	483
CLOSEBURN, . . . . .	77
CUMBERTREES, . . . . .	244
DALTON, . . . . .	371
DORNOCK, . . . . .	256
DRYFESDALE, . . . . .	451
DUMFRIES, . . . . .	1
DUNSCORE, . . . . .	336
DURISDEER, . . . . .	323
ESKDALEMUIR, . . . . .	398
EWES, . . . . .	437
GLENCAIRN, . . . . .	330
GRAITNEY, . . . . .	262
HODDAM, . . . . .	289
HOLYWOOD, . . . . .	553
HUTTON AND CORRIE, . . . . .	537
JOHNSTONE, . . . . .	151
KEIR, . . . . .	460
KIRKCONNELL, . . . . .	314
KIRKMAHOE, . . . . .	53
KIRKMICHAEL, . . . . .	67
KIRKPATRICK-FLEMING, . . . . .	274
KIRKPATRICK-JUXTA, . . . . .	164
LANGHOLM, . . . . .	416
LOCHMABEN, . . . . .	377
MIDDLEBIE, . . . . .	363
MOFFAT, . . . . .	102
MORTON, . . . . .	91
MOUSWALD, . . . . .	442
PENPONT, . . . . .	499
RUTHWELL, . . . . .	218
ST MUNGO, . . . . .	203
SANQUHAR, . . . . .	297
TINWALD AND TRAILFLAT, . . . . .	39
TORTHORWALD, . . . . .	29
TUNDERGARTH, . . . . .	195
TYNRON, . . . . .	473
WAMPFRAY, . . . . .	137
WESTERKIRK, . . . . .	429

312078







Engl on steel by W.H. ... 1815



# PARISH OF DUMFRIES.

PRESBYTERY OF DUMFRIES, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.

THE REV. ROBERT WALLACE, *Minister of St Michael's.*

THE REV. THOMAS T. DUNCAN, D. D. *Minister of the New Church.* \*

---

## I. TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name, Boundaries, &c.*—Etymologists are somewhat at variance respecting the origin of the name which this town and parish bear. The supposition that appears to me the most probable, is that which refers the name to the Gaelic words, “*dun*,” a mount, and “*phreas*,” brushwood or furze,—implying a rising ground covered with furze. This derivation is supported by the fact, that the soil is of that light sandy nature, on which, in its uncultivated state, whins and brushwood generally abound.

The parish is from six to seven miles in length, from two to three in breadth, and contains fourteen square miles and a-half. It is bounded on the north-west and north by the parishes of Kirkmahoe and Tinwald; on the north-east by that of Torthorwald; and on the east and south by the parishes of Mousewald and Caerlaverock; while the river Nith is the boundary on the west, separating it from Holywood, Terregles, and Tròqueer.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The surface of the parish may be considered as almost level, if we except the site of the burgh, and a low ridge of hills, which, rising near its southern extremity, stretches to Caerlaverock, in a direction nearly parallel to the river Nith. These hills slope gradually down towards the south-west, on the side next the river; but on the north-east side, they are much more abrupt, presenting a bold front and picturesque outline. Rather more than a mile from the town, two precipitous ledges of rock form the face of the hill, rising perpendicularly to a considerable height. Near the summit of one of these precipices is a sin-

\* This Account has been drawn up by Mr Joseph Duncan.

gular cavity, which seems to have been formed by the fall of a fragment of the rock from the upper part, leaving a canopy of stone stretching overhead, while a portion of the broken mass rests upon the brink of the ledge that forms the floor. This place is called the "*Maiden Bower Craigs*," and is reported to have been used by the Druids in the practice of some rites, employed as a test of virginity.

*Meteorology.*—The aurora borealis, which is often observed here, assumed an uncommon appearance for many evenings in the beginning of the winter of 1830, and particularly on one occasion, when the zenith presented a blood-red appearance, with rays of a pale colour playing across its surface. Suddenly, the fainter rays concentrated themselves into a focus, from which they quickly diverged in every direction, presenting a beautiful irradiation. In connection with the aurora, we must not omit to mention the appearance of two luminous arches, which were that year observed in this parish, as well as in other parts of the kingdom,—the one between eight and nine o'clock on the evening of Friday, the 17th of September, and the other about the same hour on Tuesday, the 5th of October. On the evening of the 17th of September, the polar rays gradually formed themselves into an arch, considerably broader than a rainbow, stretching over from the eastern to the western horizon, and broader towards the former than the latter quarter. The highest part of the arch then passed the zenith, and moved southwards, which gave it the appearance of falling, till it gradually faded from the view. The phenomenon presented on the 5th of October was very similar to the above; but it is remarkable, that, in this instance, the rays flickering for some time in the east, and darting upwards toward the zenith, did not succeed, till after several seemingly ineffectual attempts, in throwing an arch across the heavens. These two beautiful meteors were of the same pale colour usually presented by the aurora borealis, in the form which it generally assumes,—stars being distinctly visible through them, even during the period of their greatest brightness. Several phenomena of a similar nature were observed in September 1833.

The east and north-east winds prevail during spring, and are often very injurious to vegetation. The south-west wind, however, is the most prevalent throughout the year. A lurid appearance in the eastern horizon, called from its direction, a "*Carlisle sky*," the rolling of the clouds landwards, their gathering about the sum-

mit of the mountain Criffel, and the flight of sea-birds towards the interior, are severally regarded as sure indications of approaching foul weather.

The climate is variable, and rather moist; but the dryness of the soil, and the high winds which prevail, obviate in a great measure the evil effects which might otherwise be produced. Typhus fever frequently appears in the autumn and spring. Sibbens, a disease almost peculiar to Dumfries-shire, Galloway, and the west coast of Scotland, is of frequent occurrence here amongst the dissipated and squalid; and one case resembling *yaws* occurred within the last few years.

*Hydrography.*—There are in the parish a few mineral springs, of which we may here notice one called Crichton's Well, situate in the middle of Lochar Moss, and possessing a pretty strong impregnation of steel; and another, which was discovered about twenty years ago on the farm of Fountainbleau. It is a strong chalybeate, situate like the former in a moss soil. It has been long resorted to, and held in great repute by invalids. The benevolent proprietor has enclosed it within a stone trough, and liberally permits free access to it through his grounds.

There are several small lakes in this parish; in particular the Black, and the Sand Lochs, which are favourite resorts of our curlers during the season of the "roaring play."

The parish is watered by the rivers Nith and Lochar. The Nith rises in the parish of New Cumnock, in Ayrshire, and, after a south-east course of about fifty miles in a direct line, and about 100 including its windings, discharges itself into the Solway Firth, about nine miles below the town of Dumfries. It receives in its course the tributary waters of the Scaur, the Carron, the Cample, and the Cluden. The Lochar rises in Tinwald parish, and falls into the Solway Firth a few miles east of the mouth of the Nith,—the distance from its source to its mouth being about thirteen miles.

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—The rocks in the parish are principally red freestone.

The soil in the north and north-east, and partly in the south and south-west, consists of a light reddish sandy earth, upon a freestone bottom; but the flat lands south-west of the town, and adjacent to the river, are, generally speaking, composed of clay, upon gravel; the soil in the south-west is a pretty strong clay.

The eastern and south-eastern district of the parish consists of the extensive morass, called Lochar Moss, lying along the confines of Torthorwald and Mousewald. This moss is nearly a dead level of from two to three miles in breadth, and ten miles in length, stretching from the shore of the Solway Firth into the interior of the country. There is a tradition, that this barren waste was, at some remote period, covered with wood, and that afterwards, it was inundated by the sea, which, upon receding, left behind it the decayed vegetable matter in which the moss originated. This tradition has been embodied by the peasantry in the following couplet :

“ First a wood, and then a sea,  
 “ Now a moss, and ever will be.”

And its truth is corroborated by the fact, that the moss rests upon a deep stratum of sea-sand, out of which not only are shells and other marine deposits frequently dug, but fragments of ancient vessels of no very inconsiderable size have been repeatedly discovered, together with several iron grapples or anchors. Some ancient canoes or boats have also been found, and in particular, one formed out of the trunk of a large oak, hollowed apparently by fire. Between the surface of the moss and the sea-sand immense trunks of trees are found. These, which are principally fir, invariably lie with their tops towards the north-east ; from which it would appear, that their roots having been previously loosened by the inundation of the sea, they had been levelled by the fury of the south-western blast. It has been conceived by some, that the River Nith, at some early period, flowed through Lochar Moss, entering it from the north-east ; but this, taking into account the nature of the ground between the head of the moss and the present course of the river, seems exceedingly doubtful. In the dry summer of 1826, the moss having caught fire, burned with great rapidity, advancing in a direction contrary to that of the wind ; when several cottages fell a prey to the flames before these could be extinguished.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Accounts of the Parish.*—A manuscript copy of the Statistical account of this town and parish, drawn up by the late Reverend Dr Burnside for the former Statistical Account, (in which work it is very much abridged,) is preserved in the Society Library here.

*Historical events.*—No historical documents exist, whereby we

can determine at what precise period the town of Dumfries was founded. From several remains of antiquity, however, we may conjecture that it must have been a place of considerable resort before the end of the eighth century. The earliest historical fact which we find authentically recorded, is the erection of a monastery for Franciscan friars previous to the middle of the thirteenth century, by Dervorgilla, daughter to Allan, Lord of Galloway, and mother of John Baliol, king of Scotland. The base of the mount upon which this religious house stood, is washed by the waters of the Nith on the north and west. It was in the chapel and cloisters of this monastery that the Comyns were slain by Robert the Bruce, aided by Roger de Kirkpatrick and James Lindsay, on the 10th of February 1305. In 1307, the year after the Prince's coronation, Edward II. advanced to Dumfries, and received the homage of several Scottish noblemen. The town was burnt by the English previously to the year 1448, and again in 1536. This latter injury was amply revenged by the Lord Maxwell, who crossed the border with a small body of retainers, entered the town of Penrith, and reduced it to ashes. About this period a magnificent castle was erected out of the ruins, and almost on the site of the Friary,\* by the Maxwells, then a very powerful family. Previously to this, a strong castle had stood near the same spot. This is supposed to have been erected some time in the course of the twelfth century. In 1563, Queen Mary and her privy council were at Dumfries ratifying a peace with England; and two years afterwards, the disaffected lords Argyle, Murray, and Rothes, having assembled a force in the neighbourhood, Mary advanced upon the town with an army of 18,000 men. At her approach these nobles fled into England, and Maxwell of Terregles having incurred her royal displeasure, was glad to make his peace by surrendering the castle of Dumfries into the hands of his sovereign. The government of this fortress, however, was not withdrawn from the family. In 1570 the castle was taken and sacked, together with the town, by the English, under the Earl of Essex and Lord Scrope. In 1617, James the Sixth, on his return from a tour through his ancient kingdom of Scotland, after his accession to the English throne, passed through Dumfries, where he was re-

\* It is said that the monastery of Greyfriars was deserted in consequence of its having been polluted by the slaughter of the Red Comyn before the high altar. Certain it is, that soon after his death, the people resorted for worship to St Michael's chapel, upon the site of which the parish church of St Michael now stands, towards the south-east end of the town.

ceived with every demonstration of loyalty; and in return, he presented the Incorporated Trades of the burgh with a small silver gun, to be awarded from time to time to the best marksman amongst their number. From this date, the annals of the town present nothing worthy of record till the year 1706, when the inhabitants displayed their opposition to the Union with England by burning the Articles, together with the names of the Commissioners, at the market-cross. Upon the breaking out of the rebellion, however, in 1715, they evinced the greatest loyalty towards the reigning family; for hearing that Viscount Kenmore, at the head of a considerable body of insurgents, purposed to march upon the town, they so completely fortified it by a rampart where it was unprotected by the river, and presented so determined and warlike an attitude, that the rebels judged it most expedient to alter their line of march. But in 1745, a party of Dumfriilians having annoyed the rebel army in its march southwards, the town was severely dealt with upon the return of those lawless intruders, who, not satisfied with levying the excise, imposed upon the inhabitants a fine of L. 2000 Sterling, and 1000 pairs of shoes. Before, however, more than L. 1100 of the sum had been paid, a false alarm of the approach of the Duke of Cumberland having been given, Prince Charles and his army hastily abandoned the town, carrying with them Provost Corbet, and Mr Rid-dell of Glenriddell, as hostages, to ensure payment of the remainder.

*Eminent Characters.*—The Rev. William Veitch, who suffered much during the struggles betwixt Presbytery and Episcopacy, and of whose life an account has been published by Dr M' Crie, was, for some time after the Revolution, minister of Dumfries. His pulpit Bible is at present in the possession of a relation who resides here.

The poet Burns spent the latter part of his life in Dumfries, and his ashes rest in the burying-ground attached to St Michael's Church.

*Cholera.*—In 1832, Dumfries was visited with Indian or spasmodic cholera, and experienced its effects with more than ordinary severity; on which account some notice may here be allowed of the progress of the disease in this place.

The first case occurred on the 15th of September, and terminated fatally in a few hours. Two other similar cases occurred next day, although no personal communication had taken place with the individual first attacked. In the course of the ensuing week, several others were seized; but still the inhabitants

flattered themselves that the visitation would prove slight. On Sunday the 23d, however, the malady broke out so generally in the already infected districts of the town, and in the neighbouring burgh of Maxwelltown, on the opposite bank of the river, as to convince the most sanguine that his hopes were ill founded. From that day, the disorder spread with increasing rapidity, attacking and carrying off, not only the intemperate and the needy, but ultimately many of those whose regular habits and comfortable circumstances rendered them apparently less liable to be affected. From the limited nature of society, in a provincial town such as Dumfries, the danger appearing to be in the very midst of it, the alarm of the inhabitants was great.

A cholera hospital had been provided; and the accommodations were scarcely finished, when its appliances and means were put into requisition, under the able and efficient superintendence of Dr Grieve, and Mr Charles Bell surgeon. The patients were conveyed thither in palanquins or litters, borne on men's shoulders. The hospital was crowded, but was not large enough to hold one-eighth part of the sick; and during the few dreadful days in which the disease raged with such uncontrollable fury, our own medical practitioners, although very numerous, were not sufficient for the emergency; so that the Board of Health was forced to call in assistance from Edinburgh and elsewhere. Almost every one of the medical men suffered more or less, either from the effects of extreme bodily and mental exhaustion, or from the attacks of the disease itself. Three of them, indeed, were cut off in the midst of their usefulness; two belonging to this town, (much and deeply regretted,) and the third, one of those who had been called from a distance. \*

\* To enable the reader more easily to judge of the progress of the disorder, we here subjoin an extract from the official report of the Dumfries Board of Health, to the Central Board in London.

From the commencement of the disease on the 15th, to the 24th of September, cases 17, deaths 9, recoveries 0.

	New Cases.	Deaths.	Recoveries.
September 25,	14	9	0
———— 26,	9	5	0
———— 27,	37	5	2
———— 28,	68	19	5
———— 29,	52	13	3
———— 30,	73	14	12
October 1,	56	23	13
———— 2,	55	44	10
———— 3,	62	27	1



The disease now prevailed in almost every part of the town, but raged with the greatest severity in English Street, St Michael Street, King Street, Queensberry Street, and the closes leading from the High Street. The practitioner, as he went his rounds, was often beset by several poor distracted creatures at once, eagerly seizing him by the clothes, and each imploring a preference in behalf of some suffering relative. Trade of every description was at a stand; and few shops remained open except those of apothecaries, and of some bakers and grocers;—other men of business having, for the most part, retired from the scene of danger. Partly from this cause, and partly from the want of a sufficient number of hands to prepare the materials, many who had lost their nearest relations were obliged to dispense with the wearing of mourning. As no inhabitant of the country would willingly brave the influence of the tainted air, the market-day was undistinguished from the other days of the week, over all of which a more than sabbatical stillness seemed to reign. Many families fled with the utmost precipitation to the country, and the houses in the streets occupied by the higher ranks were, with few exceptions, shut up. Flight, however, did not always ensure safety. Many perished by the way, or on reaching their destination, far from medical aid and the comforts of home. The gentlemen of the Faculty, worn out by incessant toil, were forced to ride even the shortest distances, and theirs were the only vehicles to be seen on the streets, with the exception of hearses, which, without the usual formality of a funeral, hurried the dead to the “ever yawning and never satisfied grave.”

As we have just hinted, the deceased, while the pestilence was at its height, were, for the most part, followed to the place of interment by none but their immediate relations, and were often conveyed thither without even a single attendant save the driver of the hearse. When, however, a funeral procession was to be formed, the mourners, instead of entering the house of the deceased, were in the habit of assembling in the middle of the street a few hours after the death was known to have taken place, and of proceeding to the churchyard in front of the hearse, or on the weather side of it. Such families as possessed burying-grounds of their own, made use of them; but for the rest, two rows of large pits were dug in the more unoccupied part of the cemetery; and in these the bodies were piled one upon another,—every coffin being surrounded by a layer of quick-lime. Each pit, when the coffins had reached to about two feet from the surface, was filled up with lime and

earth; and, finally, when all the pits had been closed, a fresh stratum of about a foot thick was laid over the whole.

Owing to the absence of some, and the actual sickness, or fear of others, public worship was for some time very scantily attended; but weekly prayer meetings were held in the established churches, and in the different dissenting chapels, both for some time previous to the breaking out of the disease, and during its prevalence. Many private meetings for a similar purpose were likewise constituted at this time, and one or two are still continued,—a proof, we trust, that the awful dispensation has produced at least *some* permanent good effect.

From an early period of the disease, by order of the Board of Health, pots of pitch and tar were kept continually burning in the streets and closes, which were profusely strewed with lime, in the hope of purifying the atmosphere; but all apparently without any good effect. It is worthy of remark, that, up to this date, Dumfries, whether as viewed from within, or looked down upon from any of the surrounding heights, appeared enveloped in a thick and impervious cloud, altogether distinct and different from the smoke, and which retained its station in spite of wind and rain. The inhabitants experienced a raw damp mist, and an atmosphere of a peculiarly depressing nature.

In this state matters continued till Thursday the 4th of October, which had been appointed by the kirk-session to be kept as a day of humiliation and prayer. That night, a thunder-storm burst over the town, the peals being uncommonly long and loud, and the lightning vivid. The weather had previously been by no means such as to warrant the anticipation of a storm, yet awful and unexpected as it was, the most timorous hailed it with joy, as a means of dispelling the poison with which the atmosphere was contaminated. From this date the number of cases continued to decrease, till, through the mercy of God, the disease entirely disappeared.

The total number of cases officially reported, is 837; of deaths, 422; and of recoveries, 415. It is certain, however, that many cases were not reported. The last which occurred terminated fatally on the 27th of November.

It is remarkable that the proportion of females who were seized much exceeded that of males; and that the greater number, at the period of attack, were either menstruating, pregnant, or nursing.

Children seemed equally susceptible of the disease with adults, but they sooner rallied ; and seemingly their constitutions received less detriment. Another circumstance we must not neglect to mention, is one which, so far as we know, has not been noticed as attending cholera in any other place. It is described by Dr Grieve, in his printed report, as “ a benumbing or tingling sensation, exactly similar to a slight galvanic shock, felt on applying the hand to the skin of a cholera patient, when in the collapsed state, (and more particularly when the body is bedewed with a cold and clammy sweat,) which extends from the extremities of the fingers to the elbow, and sometimes even to the shoulder. Occasionally the effect was so powerful, as to deprive the arm for a few seconds of sensation and motion. Whether or not,” continues Dr Grieve, “ this peculiarity depends upon some extraordinary state of the nervous system, I cannot take upon myself to determine. It may not, however, be uninteresting to state, that not a single individual afflicted with paralysis, partial or confirmed, has been attacked with cholera. The same sensation was experienced by several of the practitioners of this town.”

*Parochial Registers.*—These consist of twenty-five volumes, including the proceedings of the kirk-session, the record of which commences on the 17th of September 1635. The record of baptisms commences in 1605, of marriages in 1616, and of burials in 1617 ; in all of which the entries are regular.

*Antiquities.*—The ancient castle belonging to the Comyns was romantically situated on a spot which still bears the name of Castledykes, overlooking a beautiful bend of the river, at a short distance south from the town. It is not known at what period this fortress was erected, and none of its walls are now standing ; but notice of its existence is taken in the history of the reign of Edward I.\* We have mentioned the erection of a monastery at Dumfries. For the convenience of the inmates of that religious house, its foundress caused a bridge to be constructed across the river Nith. This bridge is said at one time to have been considered, next to that of London, the best in the two kingdoms. It formerly consisted of thirteen arches ; but, having undergone various alterations, has now only seven left, and is used exclusively by foot-passengers. The narrow street which leads from the bridge to the spot where

\* In the accounts of the comptroller of the wardrobe to King Edward I. there is a charge for a palisade, granted by Edward for this castle, from the forest of Ingletwood in Cumberland.

the friary formerly stood, is still called the *Friars' Vennel*. The castle of the Maxwells has already been mentioned. In the year 1583, a strong building, called the *New Wark*, was erected, which served the double purpose of a fortress and a place of safety, wherein the effects of the inhabitants might be secured against the lawless attacks of the borderers. No vestiges, however, of this building, or of either of the castles, or of the friary, now remain.\*

On a slight eminence at the entrance of the town by English Street, may still be traced the foundation of Saint Christopher's Chapel, which was built by King Robert Bruce as a place where mass might be said for the soul of his father-in-law, Sir Christopher Seton, who was hanged on the spot by order of Edward I. On the left bank of the river, just above the town, is another eminence, which is designated in the ancient records as the *Moat Brae*, and which still bears that name. This artificial mound, like many of a similar description in Galloway, is supposed to have been formed and used by the Saxons as a place where their freeholders met for the administration of justice; † but, owing partly to the encroachment of the river, and partly to the spot on which it stood having been laid out as pleasure ground, it has entirely lost the peculiar features which characterized it as a relic of antiquity. At no great distance, is another mound, seemingly of a similar nature, called the *Kirkland Moat*. "In fact," says Chalmers, in his *Caledonia*, "there was a moat hill in every district of North Britain, during an age when justice was administered to a coarse people in the open air."

Near Castledykes above-mentioned, is a field called the *Kingholm*; which name may either have been given it by Bruce after

\* The ancient armorial bearings of the town were a cheveron, with three *fleurs de lis*; but instead of these, St Michael, the tutelary saint of Dumfries, represented with wings, a pastoral staff in his hand, and clothed in a friar's dress, treading a serpent under his bare feet, has long been used. The motto is "Aloreburn" or "Loreburn,"—a word of which the precise import has never been ascertained. It is certain, however, that it was the ancient slogan or war-cry of the inhabitants, and is believed to be a corruption of the words *lower burn*, having reference to a small rivulet, the banks of which used to be the rendezvous of the inhabitants when they assembled in arms on the approach of a hostile force. Accordingly, a street in the immediate neighbourhood of the original course of the stream in question, bears the name of "Loreburn Street."

† *Moat* or *Mote* signifies *meeting*. Thus, the Saxons termed their national council a *Wittenagemote* (meeting of the wise), and a county court they named a *Folkmote*, that is, a meeting of the people. The word *mote* was transferred from the assembly to the place where the assembly was held, as in the case of the word *Church*.

his accession to the throne, or may be a corruption from *Comyn's holm*, a name which it once bore.

Toward the south-east end of the parish, is an eminence called Trohaughton, which Pennant notices as a Roman station. A relic of antiquity, supposed to be a Roman sandal, was found many years ago towards the east end of the parish; and in the river, nearly opposite to the town mills, was found a gold coin of about the circumference of a sixpence, and the thickness of a half crown, bearing the inscription "Augustus" round the impression of a Roman head. Several Roman and Scottish coins also have at different times been discovered in digging the foundations of houses in the town. It may be mentioned, that there is still to be seen a small part of a deep track of road which led through the castle garden to the river, where a causeway was formed, by means of which the family at the castle could cross over to their seat at Terregles without passing through the town. The buildings in Castle Street, however, have now almost entirely obliterated it. A curious relic of antiquity was some time ago discovered by Mr Affleck, iron-founder, while employed in selecting some pieces of old metal to throw into the crucible. It is circular, fully two inches in diameter, and about the thickness of a penny. Upon being struck with a hammer a crust of verdigris came off, and on one side of it was discovered engraved a lion rampant in the midst of a shield bordered with fleur des lis, and surrounded, in reversed characters, by the legend

"JACOBUS DEI GRA. REX SCOTORUM;"

after which is a figure nearly similar to the letter S, which we conclude must have been intended to represent the buckle of the belt on which the inscription is engraved. The seal, for such it appears to be, is formed of a compound of copper with some other metals, and is, with some plausibility, supposed to have been the privy seal of one of the kings of Scotland. It is evidently of considerable antiquity, and closely resembles, on the engraved side, a silver groat of the date of James the Fifth. The other side is perfectly smooth, and no traces are discernable of a handle ever having been attached to it. The seal remains in possession of Mr Affleck.

*Modern Buildings, &c.*—The county town of Dumfries is beautifully situated on the left bank of the river Nith, in 55° 2' 45" north latitude, and 3° 36' west longitude from Greenwich. It is nearly

a mile in length, and a quarter of a mile in breadth. It has long possessed the character of being a clean, well built town, and has been improved and considerably enlarged within the last forty years. The streets, and most of the public buildings, are well lighted by gas, which was introduced about five years ago,\* about which period also a great improvement took place in the appearance and fitting up of the shops, which are larger and much handsomer than those of most provincial towns. The houses are built of red free-stone; such as are of older date being generally white-washed, and many in the modern part of the town painted in imitation of Portland stone.

There are in Dumfries two parish churches. St Michael's, which is furnished with a tall and handsome spire, was built in 1745, and stands at the south-east end of the town on the site of a place of worship originally Popish, but converted into the Protestant parish church after the Reformation. The other church, which was not founded till 1724, and is still called the New Church, terminates the High Street to the north-west, and occupies the site of the old castle of Dumfries, out of the ruins of which, materials for its erection were obtained. This church was first opened for public worship in 1727.

St Michael's, or the Old Church, is surrounded by an extensive and crowded burying-ground, which contains a vast number and variety of monuments, some of them very ancient. We mentioned above that in this cemetery are deposited the remains of our national poet Burns. They were originally interred in the north corner of the churchyard, upon which spot a simple table-stone was raised to his memory; but in 1815 his ashes were removed to a vault beneath an elegant mausoleum, which was erected by subscription as a tribute to his genius, at a cost of L. 1450. This monument contains a handsome piece of marble sculpture, executed by Turnerelli, representing the genius of Scotland finding the poet at the plough, and throwing "her inspiring mantle" over him. This burying-ground also contains all that could die of three witnesses for the truth, who sealed their testimony with their blood during the merciless persecutions by which the house of Stewart vainly endeavoured to contaminate the purity of our Presbyterian faith and worship. The graves are marked by plain slabs of freestone, with rude inscrip-

\* Measures are now (1833) in progress for supplying the town, by means of pipes, with good spring water.

tions; but a more suitable monument is about to be erected on the spot, as a proof how highly their grateful countrymen respect the memory of the martyrs in the southern district of Scotland. Mr M'Diarmid, the editor of the *Dumfries and Galloway Courier*, and author of the "Sketches from Nature," calculates, in the latter of these works, that the value of the monuments in St Michael's church-yard, now in a state of preservation, cannot come far short of L.100,000. Of the first class of monuments, there are 109; of tombstones on pillars, 712; besides about 1000 other memorials of the departed, more or less dilapidated.

In 1780, the county gentlemen erected a handsome Doric column, to commemorate the virtues of Charles Duke of Queensberry; this monument stands in Queensberry Square, an open space near the centre of the town. Not far from this, and awkwardly placed in the middle of the High Street, is the *Mid Steeple*, the work of the famous architect, Inigo Jones. In this structure are the chambers where the Town-Council hold their meetings. Opposite to it, on the east side of the street, is the Trades' Hall, an unpretending, but chaste building, erected in 1804, for the public meetings of the seven incorporated trades, to be noticed below. The Court-house is an elegant and commodious structure, wherein the circuit and sheriff-courts, the quarter sessions and the county meetings are held. Opposite to this stands a heavy-looking building, which was at first intended for a court-house, but is now converted into a Bridewell, the interior of which is arranged on the same plan with that of Edinburgh, but on so small a scale, that it is thought, from the facility with which the prisoners can hold intercourse with one another, to be very ill adapted for a place of confinement. Behind this, in a low damp yard, and surrounded by a high wall, is situated the county Jail, which, along with the Bridewell, was built in 1807. Previously to that period, the jail was in the centre of the town. A vaulted passage under the street, forms a communication between the prison-yard and the court-house. The debtors have the liberty of exercising themselves within the enclosed yard. A very handsome suite of Assembly-rooms was lately erected in George Street.

There are in Dumfries two meeting-houses belonging to the united Secession Church; a Cameronian, a Relief, an Independent, and a Methodist Meeting-house; an Episcopalian Chapel, a Roman Catholic Chapel, and a Theatre. The Cameronian, and one



of the Secession Meeting-houses, are new and handsome specimens of architecture.

The Academy is a fine roomy structure, in a dry and healthy situation. There are also a Poor's-house, and an Infirmary; which latter building stands on an airy locality, at the south east extremity of the town, the right wing being used as a lunatic asylum. This institution has proved a great blessing to the whole south of Scotland.

There are branches of the following banks in Dumfries,—viz. the British Linen Company, the Bank of Scotland, the National, and the Commercial Banks. For the latter of these, a costly and classical structure has lately been erected. A house which was originally intended for a Bridewell, has long been employed as a depot for the arms and accoutrements of the county militia. There are three water-mills belonging to the town, but these stand on the opposite side of the river, in the parish of Troqueer. A little above the old bridge, already noticed, stands the new bridge, erected in 1794, and which, though more substantial than elegant, is not destitute of beauty.

### III.—POPULATION.

According to the Government Census, the population of the parish in 1811 was,	9,262
In 1821,	11,052
In 1831,	11,606

In 1831, the number of males was 5206; of females, 6400. The number of the population residing in the town of Dumfries is 8432; in villages, and in the country, 3174. The yearly average of births for the last seven years is, as near as can be learnt, about 260; of marriages, 81; of deaths, 229.

The number of inhabited houses is 1512; of unfinished houses, 6. The number of lunatics in the parish is 7; of idiots, 15; of deaf and dumb, 4; of blind, 9. The number of families in the parish is 2599; whereof 248 are chiefly employed in agriculture; and 1170 in trade, manufactures, and handicraft.

*Landed Proprietors.*—There are eighty-one heritors in the parish, most, if not all of whom, possess land of the yearly value of £ 50 at least; thirty-five of these possess estates without the burgh roods, and therefore have a voice in the parochial meetings of heritors; but the other forty-six, whose property lies within the burgh roods, are represented by the magistrates and town-council.

*Language, Customs, &c.*—The language universally spoken by the lower ranks is the lowland Scotch, which has, however, within the last forty years, lost much of its national peculiarity,—many words which were then used having now become obsolete.

We have already mentioned the “siller gun.” This royal gift is competed for at least once in seven years, and oftener if the trades think fit. Upon such occasions, every member of the incorporations is bound under a penalty to appear armed with a firelock, and to answer to his name. This done, the whole march in due form to some convenient open ground in the neighbourhood, and there contend for the prize by shooting in rotation at a target. The successful marksman returns to the town in front of the procession, bearing attached to his hat, and adorned with ribbons, the piece of ordnance, of which he is the nominal custodier until the next trial of skill takes place.

There are annual races on Tinwald Downs in the month of September, at which period assemblies are held in the town. The theatre is generally open for two or three months in the year.

The people have of late made considerable advances in cleanliness; and the practice of going barefoot, formerly so common throughout Scotland, is here fast losing ground. The standard articles of food amongst the lower orders are potatoes, porridge, oat-cakes, and milk; salt herrings are also very much used. Although a great deal of poverty exists in the obscure parts of the town, the inhabitants in general seem to enjoy in a very considerable degree the comforts and advantages of society, and are contented with their situation and circumstances.

*Character of the people.*—The people are generally intelligent, and although there are many amongst the labouring classes who can neither read nor write, yet these are, in but a very few instances, natives of Scotland. Living in a district where no manufactures are carried on upon an extensive scale, the inhabitants have not amongst them those exciting motives to discontent and insubordination which exist more or less in all manufacturing towns. They possess the character of being decent in their external deportment, and respectful to their superiors. Poaching, however, both in game and in the salmon fisheries, prevails to a considerable extent.

## IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture and Rural Economy.*

Number of acres cultivated or occasionally in tillage,	-	-	7930
_____ which have never been cultivated, forming Lochar Moss, and several patches besides, about	-	-	1350
_____ capable of being cultivated with a profit, probably,	-	-	1300
_____ in undivided common,	-	-	0
_____ under full grown or natural wood, (oak, ash, plane, &c.)	-	-	74
_____ planted, (oak, ash, larch, &c.)	-	-	244
Total number of acres in the parish,	-	-	9280

*Rent of Land.*—The average rent of arable land is from thirty to forty shillings per acre; except in the immediate neighbourhood of the town, where it is from L. 4 to L. 6. The average rent of grazing for a cow is about L. 4. No sheep are put out to graze in that way. The total estimated rental of the burgh and burgh roods is L. 21,000, and that of the landward part of the parish is L. 8810,—making the rental of the whole parish about L. 29,810.

*Rate of Wages, &c.*—The rate of labour, winter and summer, for farm labourers and country artisans, is 1s. 6d. per day. The daily hire of a mason, carpenter, and other mechanical workmen in the country, is 2s. with victuals; 2s. 6d. without. In town the rate is from 2s. to 2s. 6d. per day. A joiner or cabinet-maker's weekly wages average about 15s. An iron plough costs from L. 3, to L. 3, 10s. A full mounted cart, L. 8.

*Breeds of Live Stock.*—Very few sheep are bred in the parish. The only cattle bred and reared are of the pure Galloway kind; which, owing to the attention of late bestowed upon the breeding of them, has very much improved. Almost as many Ayrshire as Galloway cows are kept for milk; but none of the former are reared in the parish.

*Husbandry.*—The principal part of the arable land is managed under what is technically termed a *five or six year's shift*, viz. in the first year *oats*; in the second, *turnips* or *potatoes*; in the third, *wheat* or *barley*; in the fourth, generally *hay*; and in the fifth and sixth, *pasture*. Within the last forty years, about 250 acres have been reclaimed from Lochar Moss, which have amply repaid the outlay, yielding abundant crops of oats, potatoes, and rye-grass hay. Much more might be brought into cultivation if sufficient encouragement were given by proprietors, such, for instance, as a general drainage of the river Lochar. We may here mention that it has been more than once proposed to carry a canal from the Lochar Bridge Quarry to the sea, a distance of about twelve miles, (in which there is a fall of thirty feet,) having a branch to communi-

cate with Dumfries. This, it is considered, would be of immense local importance.

The turnip husbandry is now carried on to the greatest possible extent, and is found to be a valuable improvement upon the dry sharp sandy soils, of which a large proportion of the arable land in this parish consists. Forty years ago it was a rare thing to see turnips sown; but for the last five years, 150 acres have been about the average extent of land occupied by that article. Almost all the turnip crops are eaten on the ground by sheep. About one-half of the quantity of turnips is raised by the aid of bone manure, at an expense of from L. 3, 10s. to L. 4, 10s. per acre. The general duration of leases is from fifteen to nineteen years. These leases are decidedly favourable to the tenants, who generally prefer the latter period.

The farm-buildings, upon the whole, are by no means so comfortable as they should be, owing chiefly to a large proportion of the landward part of the parish being entailed property. The fences are in a better condition.

*Quarries.*—Four red sandstone quarries are worked in this parish; and at an annual expense of about L. 1000.

*Fisheries.*—The only fisheries carried on are those of salmon and trout; the rents of which amount to about L. 500 a-year.

*Produce.*—The average gross amount and value of raw produce raised in the parish may be as follows:

Produce of grain of all kinds, whether cultivated for food of man, or the domestic animals,	-	-	-	-	-	L. 12,800	0	0	
Of potatoes, turnips, cabbages, beet, and other plants, cultivated in the fields for food,	-	-	-	-	-	4600	0	0	
Of hay, whether meadow or cultivated,	}	-	-	-	-	1760	0	0	
Of crops cultivated for the arts, as flax,		-	-	-	-				
Of land in pasture,	-	-	-	-	-	1528	0	0	
Of fisheries, whether sea, river, or lake,	-	-	-	-	-	500	0	0	
Of quarries,	-	-	-	-	-	1000	0	0	
Total yearly value of raw produce raised,							L. 22,186	0	0

*Manufactures.*—The only manufactures carried on to any great extent in Dumfries are those of hats and stockings. The latter of these does not at present yield a very encouraging remuneration. No fewer than 279 frames are employed by the stocking-weavers in this place. There are three hat-manufactories; in which together, nearly 200 workmen are employed. Formerly checked cottons were fabricated, but this branch has fallen off; and most of the cotton-spinners who remain are in the employ of Carlisle or Glasgow manufacturers. The trade of tanning is also

carried on to some extent ; and hides prepared here are disposed of in Glasgow, London, and other parts of the United Kingdom. There are also several breweries in Dumfries, and one very extensive basket-making establishment. The manufacture of clogs, or strong shoes with thick wooden soles, the use of which was till lately confined to the south of Scotland, affords no inconsiderable profit to those engaged in it. Large quantities of shoes are also exported, and in the manufacture of these articles upwards of 300 individuals are employed. The manufactures carried on are not sufficiently extensive to produce much effect upon either the health, or the morals, of the general population.

*Trade.*—Many thousand carcasses of pork are sold here during the season, which lasts from the end of December to the beginning of April, and are sent off to the south to be cured. More than 700 are sold weekly ; and, in some instances, from L. 4000 to L. 5000 worth of pork has been disposed of in one day. A butcher-market was many years ago prepared, and the stalls were occupied ; but it is now entirely deserted,—the “fleshers” finding it of greater advantage to disperse themselves over the town. In the meal-market, business is transacted under cover. It has been for some time in contemplation to build new markets, somewhat upon the plan of those in Edinburgh ; but nothing has as yet been done towards the accomplishment of this design.

About eighty years ago, a considerable tobacco trade was carried on in Dumfries ; but, in consequence of the detection of some systematic and successful attempts at smuggling, the traffic in this article came to be discouraged.

The only foreign trade is with America, for timber, in which several pretty large vessels are employed. The other vessels are coasters, plying to Liverpool, Whitehaven, Maryport, and other parts. The imports are, principally coal, slate, iron, tallow, timber, hemp, and wine. The annual value of the timber imported cannot be less than from L. 8000 to L. 10,000 Sterling. The exports are wool, freestone, oats, wheat, and barley.\*

*Navigation.*—The number of vessels of all burdens belonging to the port of Dumfries, (including the Creek of Annan,) amounts to 84, the total burden of which is 5788 tons. The number of foreign vessels usually trading to this port is from 12 to 18. The range of the Dumfries Custom-house extends from Sark-foot,

\* Farther particulars of the trade of this parish are given under the head of Parochial Economy.

at the head of the Solway Firth, to Glenluce, on the coast of Galloway. The gross amount of Customs collected at the port of Dumfries for the year ending 5th January 1832, was L. 5089.

A steam-boat plies once a-week during the summer months between Dumfries and Whitehaven, in connection with one from thence to Liverpool; by which conveyance an immense quantity of goods and live stock, particularly sheep, are exported for the English market.

*Societies for Encouragement of Industry.*—The Dumfries and Galloway Horticultural Society, instituted in 1812, and which meets periodically in Dumfries, has been of great use in stirring up to emulation, industry, and improvement, the gardeners in this district, prizes being awarded to those who produce the best and rarest articles.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Markets, &c.*—Dumfries has long been celebrated for its markets, which are held every Wednesday; when a great deal of business is done among the cattle-dealers upon the “Sands,” an open space by the river side, set apart for the purpose; but, besides these, there are four great annual fairs, viz. one at Whitsunday and another at Martinmas, when an immense number of black-cattle are sold; and the other two for horses, in October and February. The greatest annual cattle-market held on Dumfries Sands, is that preceding and corresponding with Brough-hill Fair in Cumberland, and usually takes place in the last week of September. On each of two occasions, during the last five years, viz. in 1829 and 1830, there have been about 6000 head of cattle exposed,—the majority being aged, or three-year old Galloways and Highlanders; and on each of these occasions business has been done to an amount exceeding L. 30,000. The numbers usually exposed for sale on that day, however, during the last dozen years, amount to from 3500 to 4500 yearly; and for six weeks about this period, an amount of cattle, varying from 1500 to 2000, are generally exposed on the Sands of Dumfries. Fully one-half of these are drove or heavy cattle. But the business done in the public market gives but an inadequate idea of the magnitude of the trade in general; for an immense variety of transactions are effected by the dealers privately throughout Dumfries-shire and Galloway; and in a period of ten days, during the droving season, more than 20,000 head of cattle have been known to

pay toll on the English road, and not one of which had been exposed in the market. Added to the business done in heavy cattle, a very important and bustling trade is carried on by the farmers, graziers, and jobbers,—disposing, on the one hand, of young cattle, which have been grazed or fed on fodder a certain period; and, on the other, purchasing cattle a stage younger, which are grazed in their turn; the difference between the original cost and that which is received at the sale constituting the profit, or sum intended for the expenses of keep.

Of the horse-market, it is impossible to speak with any thing like accuracy. There, again, an immense part of the business is transacted privately; and at the fairs of Candlemas and Roodsmass, the number of all kinds exposed may perhaps vary from 400 to 600. A portion of the best draught horses are retained for service in the district in which they have been reared; and the surplus carried by the dealers to Edinburgh, Glasgow,—the west country generally, and to the north of England.

At the fair in February, an incredible quantity of hare-skins is purchased. The average number cannot be under 30,000; and one year, no less a sum than L. 6000 is said to have been paid for that one article.

*Burgh.*—Dumfries is a royal burgh, and is entitled to one of five votes for a member of Parliament. The tradesmen are divided into seven incorporations, from each of which a deacon is annually elected; and of the seven deacons thus elected, one is chosen convener, to assemble and preside over the whole craft, which is composed of, *1st*, the hammermen, consisting of blacksmiths, whitesmiths, tin-smiths, coppersmiths, and saddlers, making in all 100 freemen; *2d*, the squarèmen, 100 in number, and including joiners, cabinet-makers, masons, glaziers, coopers, and slaters; *3d*, weavers, amounting to 30; *4th*, tailors, also amounting to 30; *5th*, shoemakers, numbering 100; *6th*, skinners; and *7th*, butchers; both of which last incorporations are of small numerical strength. The town-council consists of a provost, three bailies, a dean of guild, a treasurer, twelve merchant councillors, and the convener of the seven incorporated trades, together with the six remaining deacons, making in all twenty-five members. There are six wards of police, and two commissioners for each ward are elected annually in June, by renters of L. 10 each. The provost, the three bailies, and the convener of the incorporations are commissioners *ex officio*. As the capital of the county, Dumfries is the seat of the sheriff and commissary courts. The quarter-sessions, the commissioners

of supply, and the freeholders assemble in this town; and here also the Justiciary and Jury courts sit during the spring and autumn circuits. Dumfries is, besides, the seat of a presbytery and a provincial synod.

*Means of Communication.*—The revenue of the post-office in Dumfries, was, for the year 1832, about L. 2500, after deductions for salaries, &c. &c.

There are three turnpike roads, each of which, from its commencement at Dumfries, to the boundary of the parish, measures about three miles. The London, Edinburgh, and Portpatrick mail-coaches, daily arrive in and leave Dumfries; and there are besides, coaches to Edinburgh, Glasgow, and London, and carriers to those places twice a-week. Owing to the channel of the river having lately been deepened, vessels of considerable burthen can discharge their cargoes close to the town, and by this means the inhabitants have their coals transported by water from Whitehaven almost to their very doors. There is also a quay at the bend of the river near Castledykes; one for vessels of greater burthen about a mile and a-half further down; and another near the mouth of the river for foreign vessels, and such as draw too much water to approach nearer to the town.

The sums expended on the improvement and repairs of the harbour, and the deepening of the river since the act of Parliament was passed for the purpose, amount to L. 18,530, 9s. 11d.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The clergyman of each of the two churches before noticed has a distinct district allotted to him as the scene of his labours. The landward district, and a part of the town, is under the minister of St Michael's, and the remainder of the town is under the care of the minister of the New Church. The officiating elders, and the clergymen of both churches, constitute a joint session. The churches are both very well situated for the convenience of the population. The Old church is now in a good state of repair, and accommodates 1250 sitters. For the New church, much may yet be done to promote the comfort and convenience of the congregation. It is seated for 1200. There are no free sittings in either of the churches; 1000 families attend the two established churches; and the number of communicants at both is about 1500. The manse is a building of the last century; but underwent a very thorough repair in the year 1831.

The extent of the glebe is about seven acres and a-half, exclusive of the garden attached to the manse, and its yearly value in



rent is about L. 40 Sterling. The minister of the New Church has neither manse nor glebe.

The amount of the stipends is as follows; St Michael's, or the Old Church, L. 309 Sterling.

The New Church, from Bishop's rents,	-	800	Merks.
Parsonage teinds,	-	400	
Town's revenue,	-	600	
		1800	= L. 100 Sterling.
From the Exchequer,	-	141	13 4
			L. 241 13 4
To this the town adds as a free donation,	-	40	0 0
			L. 281 13 4

There are eight dissenting places of worship in the parish, which we have already particularly specified. The stipends of the dissenting ministers are paid from the seat-rents, and amount to from about L. 100 to L. 130 each; they have, besides, a free house, and an additional allowance for expense at the time of the communion. 125 families attend the Relief chapel, of whom 102 live within the parish; 70 families attend the Cameronian chapel, of whom only 12 live within the parish; 56 families attend the Episcopalian chapel, one-third of whom are without the bounds of the parish; 43 families, all within the parish, attend the Methodist chapel. It is supposed that the total number of individuals attending the dissenting places of worship may be about 700.

The Roman Catholic chapel derives a large proportion of its congregation from the neighbouring burgh of Maxwelltown, a great part of the population of which consists of low Irish. The bishop resides in Edinburgh.

*Societies for Religious purposes.*— There are in the parish a Bible Society, a Missionary Society, a Bible and Missionary Society, a Highland Education Society, a Samaritan Society, for promoting the temporal and spiritual welfare of the poor, Ladies' and a Gentlemen's Liberian Society, for the purpose of promoting the interests of the colony of free blacks on the coast of Africa, an Association against Infidelity and Radicalism, and a Benevolent Society, the object of which we have to notice in the sequel.

*Education.*— This parish is well supplied with the means of education, the total number of schools being no less than thirty-nine. None of these are parochial, but four of them are endowed schools, under the patronage of the magistrates, town-council, and ministers, and are united under the name of the Dumfries Academy. The

branches taught at the academy are, Greek and Latin, English, mathematics, geography, arithmetic, book-keeping, writing, French, and drawing. The salaries of the masters, and the school fees, are as follow:—The salary of the master of the grammar-school is the interest of L. 660, 6s. 3d., with fees at 7s. 6d. per quarter. The salaries of the other masters are, the interest of L. 204, 8s. 10d. each, with fees at 5s. per quarter, for English reading, geography, arithmetic, and writing; but at 10s. 6d. per quarter for mathematics. The French and drawing classes are not endowed, and the teachers have the power of fixing the amount of their own fees. Two other schools are supported by the Benevolent Society above alluded to; one of these being instituted for the instruction of poor children of both sexes in reading, writing, arithmetic, and the principles of religion; and the other for teaching girls to sew and read the Bible. The teachers have each a house attached to the school-house, and a salary,—that of the former being L. 60 per annum, and that of the other L. 20, with sixpence a month from each pupil. There are also two adult schools, one for males, the other for females. These are supported by charitable contributions, and are attended by about 200 scholars, chiefly Irish, of whom about eighty are females. The remaining thirty-one schools are private undertakings, the teachers being supported by the wages only. Of the private schools, eleven are taught by females, and twenty by males. They are of various grades, from dame schools for infants, to seminaries where the higher branches of mathematics and the languages are taught. Wages from 1s. 1d. to 10s. 6d. per quarter. The people in general seem fully alive to the benefits of education. \*

*Literature.*—The presbytery of this district has a valuable library in Dumfries; besides which, there are three others belonging to societies. Of what are called circulating libraries, there are four kept by booksellers on speculation, and a select one, open to the public. There exists also a Mechanics' Institution, in the list of whose members appear the names of many respectable individuals belonging to the town. There are already four public reading-rooms. Two weekly newspapers are published in Dumfries. Other periodical works have been often attempted, but have never prospered.

*Charitable and other Institutions.*—*Poor's-House.*—The Poor's-House was erected in 1753, from funds bequeathed by William Muirhead, "Merchant Adventurer" in Carlisle, and James Muir-

\* The formation of an Infant School is at present contemplated.

head in Castledykes, "his brother-german," for poor orphans, and for aged paupers of both sexes. A master and mistress reside in the house, and the children are taught reading, writing, arithmetic, and the principles of religion; after which they are sent to service, or apprenticed to tradesmen. The comforts of the aged inmates are well cared for; and, besides these, there are forty-two widows, who receive pension at their private houses. The affairs of the institution are under the excellent management of a weekly committee of directors, the members of which are selected from the kirk session, the town-council, and the inhabitants. The funds are derived partly from the interest of mortified money and rent of lands, partly from annual subscriptions, and partly from donations; and since its foundation, the Institution has received donations, subscriptions, &c. amounting to more than L. 6000. The house accommodates, upon an average, about thirty old, and twenty young paupers. The annual expenditure is about L. 500. Various attempts have been made to introduce some kind of handicraft into the establishment, but hitherto without much success. The girls, however, are taught to sew and to knit, and such of the elderly females as are able, employ their time in that way; the strongest of the men are engaged in dressing the garden, which is pretty extensive.

*Infirmary and Dispensary.*—The Infirmary was opened in the outskirts of the town for the benefit of Dumfries-shire and Galloway, in the year 1776, and is still the only institution of the kind in the south of Scotland. As already intimated, a lunatic asylum forms part of the institution, which has now obtained a royal charter. Its income is derived from land and other investments of capital, and from legacies, donations, and subscriptions, including parochial contributions, and liberal annual allowances from the counties of Dumfries and Wigton, and the stewartry of Kirkcudbright. This is quite adequate to the expenditure, which may be stated at L. 1200 or L. 1300 per annum. The average number of patients is about 30; the number treated in the course of a year about 500; the number attended at their own homes about 470. The Infirmary dispenses medicines, gratis, to out-patients who do not require to be visited. The medical attendants consist of two physicians, two surgeons, and a house-surgeon or clerk. A licentiate of the established church regularly officiates as chaplain. A weekly committee of management is chosen from among the subscribers. The donations and bequests to the Infirmary, within the

last fifty years, amount together to about L. 18,000. There is also a public Dispensary at the west end of the town which, during the year 1831, took under its care 2538 patients, and supplied them at the wonderfully trifling cost of L. 30.

*Friendly Societies.*—The friendly societies of this parish are now all extinct except one, their rules having been drawn up on false principles. The surviving one has for its object the support of widows.

*Savings Banks.*—A parish bank has existed here ever since the beginning of 1815; and with the happiest effects, of which striking proof has been given in individual cases. The average yearly investments amount to L. 3997, 17s. 6d. and the average yearly repayments to L. 3293, 7s. The small sums deposited in the course of the year 1831, amounted to no less than L. 4829, 2s. 4d. The repayments during the same period, were L. 2816, 7s. 7d. The whole stock now accumulated is L. 7716, 7s. 7d. The investments are chiefly made by labourers, industrious mechanics, and servants.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid directly from the kirk-session, previous to the year 1832, was 560; and the average allowance to each of these was about 14s. But this does not include the fifty inmates nor the forty-two pensioners of the Poor-House, nor ten pensioners supported by a fund left by the late Mrs Carruthers of Warmanby, for the lame and blind, among whom not less than L. 200 will be annually distributed by the trustees, under the will of the testatrix. Since the commencement of 1832, however, pauperism has, owing to the desolations caused in many families by cholera, so much increased, that it is impossible to give any accurate account, either of the present number of the poor, or of their annual average allowances.

The contributions for their relief, including L. 205 of collections at the churches, donations, fees for proclamation and baptism, and the use of the mort-cloth, the interest of legacies, a large voluntary assessment, subscriptions to the poor-house above-mentioned, rent of land belonging to that institution, and the annual proceeds of the Warmanby bequest, besides one or two minor charities not managed by public bodies, can hardly be estimated at less than L. 1500 per annum. In former times, the poor were supported without the aid of extraordinary contributions from the heritors. Two-thirds of the session's funds were placed at the disposal of the directors

of the poor's-house, who undertook to provide for the whole poor resident in the town, while the session, with the remaining third, were to support the landward paupers. In point of fact, however, it is believed that the directors never fully implemented their part of the compact, and that the session have always been burdened with a portion of the town's poor. On these grounds, the agreement was lately declared null.

The parish is divided into forty-one districts, to each of which a visitor is appointed, to inquire into, and supply the wants of the poor from his private purse; advancing money, which is repaid at the end of the month by a board of control, nominated by the magistrates, heritors, and session. How this system may work is yet uncertain; but it is much to be feared it must give place to a legal assessment.

*Prisons.*—The number of prisoners, (exclusive of debtors,) committed to the county jail during the last year, amounts to 45.

*Inns, &c.*—The three principal inns in Dumfries are,—the King's Arms, the George, and the Commercial Inn. Upon a moderate average, no fewer than 168 individuals annually have licences granted them to sell ale and spirits, and the effect upon the morals of the population is truly deplorable.

*Fuel.*—The fuel used in the parish consists of coals from Sanquhar, in this county, and from Maryport and Whitehaven in Cumberland, and peats from Lochar Moss. As peats can be procured in smaller quantities than coals, they are generally used by the poorer classes, although in the end coals are found to be cheaper. The Maryport coal sells at one shilling a measure; the measure being equal to 28½ gallons. The best Sanquhar coal sells at sixpence per measure, or L. 1, 5s. for a waggon load. An inferior description of Sanquhar coal sells at fourpence per measure, or L. 1 for a waggon load.

#### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The most remarkable features of difference betwixt the state of the parish at the period when the last Statistical Account was drawn up, and its state at the present time, seem to be the general enlargement of the town, and its improvement in appearance, as well as in trade; the increased facility of navigation in the Nith, the great improvement which has taken place in husbandry throughout the parish, and the advance of knowledge amongst the lower ranks of society. Much has been done in reclaiming waste land from

Lochar Moss, and much more may yet be done, if sufficient encouragement be given. The cutting of a channel at the mouth of the Lochar, so as to secure to its waters a free escape into the Solway Firth, or the forming of a canal (as has been proposed,) from the quarry of Lochar bridge to that estuary, is considered to be the only effectual mode by which the moss might be drained. The greatest obstacle to the accomplishment of this desirable object, is a mill which stands near the mouth of the Lochar, and to the removal of which there are at present insuperable difficulties. From Lochar Bridge to the sea the distance is more than ten miles, and the fall is only thirty feet; so that, in consequence of the dam which is attached to the mill, a body of dead water, more than six feet in depth, is kept standing in the bed of the river for several miles, completely saturating the spongy soil in every direction.

*September 1833.*

# PARISH OF TORTHORWALD.

PRESBYTERY OF DUMFRIES, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.

THE REV. JOHN YORSTOUN, MINISTER.

---

## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name, Boundaries, &c.*—THE etymology of “Torthorwald,” the name of this parish, is matter of conjecture. That given in the former Statistical Report is probably as good as any other, viz. that it signifies the Tower or Castle of *Thor in the wood*. There is still a large ruin of a strong castle near the centre of the parish, supposed, from the style of building, to have been erected 700 or 800 years ago; and the parish is said to have been formerly surrounded by an extensive forest, though at present there is very little wood in it.\*

Torthorwald is bounded by the parish of Mousewald on the south; of Lochmaben on the east; of Tinwald on the north; and of Dumfries on the west. It lies on the south-west face of a gently sloping ridge, the summit of which, about 600 or 700 feet in height, constitutes the march between two divisions of the county of Dumfries, Nithsdale, and Annandale,—taking their names from the two rivers of Nith and Annan, which run along their valleys in a southerly direction, and empty themselves into the Solway Firth. The boundaries betwixt this parish and those of Mousewald, Lochmaben, and Tinwald, are not of any strongly defined natural kind, but chiefly dikes, ditches, or small runners, separating the lands of conterminous proprietors. But from the parish of Dumfries it is separated by the water or river of Lochar, which runs along the whole line of march. The shape of the parish is pretty compact, and nearly square, excepting one long point, consisting principally of moss, and projecting about three miles beyond the rest towards

\* The old castle of Torthorwald, which is particularly described in the former Statistical Report, is situate near the church and manse and village of Torthorwald;—a great part of the walls are still standing. No decay or dilapidation has taken place on it since last Statistical Report: indeed it may stand as it is for many years, as the mortar with which it is cemented is as firm as the solid stone.

the south. In this tract, there is a very long strip of valuable meadow along the water of Lochar, and a small tributary stream; but all the rest is a barren moss, neither cultivated nor inhabited;—being part of what is known by the name of Lochar Moss. According to Crawford's map of the county of Dumfries, this parish contains  $8\frac{1}{2}$  square miles, and 5600 English acres.

Lochar-Moss,\* which lies along the west side of this parish, is of great extent, being about thirteen miles long, and, at an average, from two to three miles broad. The slow running-water or river called Lochar divides it nearly from north to south. The moss on the west side of the water is in the parishes of Dumfries and Caerlaverock; that on the east side is in the parishes of Tinwald, Torthorwald, Mousewald, and Ruthwell.

*Meteorology.*—The temperature of the atmosphere here is in general mild; rather moist than otherwise. No effluvia injurious to health arise from the great tract of Lochar Moss. Agues are hardly known in this district, except when brought from other parts of the country. The most prevailing winds are from the south-west; and from the same quarter, the most frequent rains come. The temperature of the air is in spring milder here than in the Lothians; but the latter enjoy a great advantage over us in autumn, as their weather is then much drier and steadier than ours. Indeed, I believe these differences of climate and weather are general between the east and west coasts, both of England and Scotland.

*Geology.*—The geology of this parish seems very simple. The soil of the greater part of the good land in it is formed from the debris of greywacke or transition rock, which is the prevailing rock of the ridge that separates the valleys of Nith and Annan, along the west side of which Torthorwald lies. In this and the adjoining parish of Tinwald, there is perhaps a greater quantity of good land lying together, than is to be met with anywhere else in Nithsdale. The soil is strong enough for wheat, and dry enough for turnips; thus possessing two of the most valuable properties of good land.

There are neither coals, nor lime, nor stone quarries in this parish. Stones, which in many places are found near the surface, have been used a good deal in building dikes; but when exposed to the weather many of them crumble down, and consequently the dikes are not lasting fences. Thorn hedges, when properly taken

\* See Statistical Account of the parish of Dumfries.



care of, thrive well here, and are much more ornamental and better fences than the stone dikes such as we have.

Beside the extensive moss and meadows lying along Lochar, there are three kinds and qualities of lands in Torthorwald parish. The first, a long narrow strip, extending from the moss one-quarter of a mile upwards, is a light kindly soil, upon a sandy or gravelly bottom, and is well adapted to potatoes, or turnips and barley. The second division, extending up the ridge about half a mile farther, is equally fertile, of a stronger quality, and upon a rotten slaty rock bottom. This is also excellent turnip and barley soil, and bears good wheat. Both these divisions are sound dry ground. But the former is apt to suffer much in a severe drought. The third division, extending to the top of the ridge, is steeper and more uneven on its surface, the soil colder, and of a less kindly quality; much of it upon a retentive tilly bottom, and, from its high, bare, and exposed situation, far inferior in value to either of the other two divisions.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Parochial Registers.*—The earliest date of the register of births, &c. kept in this parish is 1696, and the register in general seems to be pretty correct.

*Land-owners.*—The whole parish of Torthorwald belongs to two heritors—the Marquis of Queensberry and Sir Robert Grierson, of Lag, Bart. Neither of them reside in the parish. The Marquis's residence is at Kinmont, in the parish of Cummertrees, about ten miles south from Torthorwald; and Sir Robert Grierson's is at Rockhall, in the parish of Mousewald, immediately adjoining to Torthorwald on the south.

*Rental.*—The rental of the parish as stated in the Statistical Report of 1791, was L. 1850. It is now L. 4765. So great an increase cannot be sufficiently accounted for by the rise in the price of farm produce, and by the improved system of husbandry. In addition to these causes, it is feared there must be taken into account the smaller profits which the tenants now make. At the former period, most of them were saving money; but at present, very few of them can do more from the produce of their farms, than pay their rents and maintain their families.

## III.—POPULATION.

The population, according to the census taken in 1831, amount-

ed to 1320, of whom 651 were males, and 669 females. This is exactly double of what the population was in 1791, when the last Statistical Report was drawn up. The increase is to be accounted for in this manner: Sir Robert Grierson, who is proprietor of a large share of Lochar Moss, and of the adjoining land, and through whose property the turnpike road from Dumfries to Carlisle passes for a considerable length in two divisions, began about twenty-five or thirty years ago to encourage the building of a village called Collin, adjoining said road, and near the moss, by granting building leases for ninety-nine years, of small portions of land. So rapid has been the growth of the village and its branches, that nearly one-half of the whole population of the parish is now resident upon the same ground which was formerly occupied by only five or six families. The principal inducement to build in this situation, is its proximity to a great and well frequented public road, which always has its attractions and advantages, and to Lochar Moss, where the villagers get a cheap and abundant supply of fuel. It was formerly thought by many proprietors of land, that the great desideratum was to get plenty of people to build and settle upon their estates. But experience has taught them, that collecting a multitude of people, when there is not sufficient employment for them, instead of being any advantage, has no better effect than to bring a heavy burden upon themselves, and upon the neighbourhood, and is the sure way to increase the number of paupers, and to introduce parochial assessments for the maintenance of the poor, with all their concomitant evils.

The number of inhabitants residing in the village of Collin and its branches, is	582
In the village of Rowcan,	242
In the village of Torthorwald, near the old castle,	185
In the country part of the parish,	311
	<hr/>
	1320

The number of families in the parish is 273, of which 48 are chiefly employed in agriculture, and 82 in trade, manufactures, and handicraft. The average number of births for the last seven years is 29; of deaths, 17; of marriages, 7½.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture and Rural Economy.*—The average number of imperial acres yearly bearing crops is,

Of Oats,	950
Barley,	339
Wheat,	150

Of Potatoes,	- - - - -	265
Turnips,	- - - - -	300
Sown hay,	- - - - -	572
Natural meadow hay,	- - - - -	274
Number of acres which never have been cultivated (besides Lochar-Moss,)		290
----- that might be cultivated with a profitable application of capital		
(independently of the large tract of Lochar-Moss,)	- - - - -	200
----- in undivided common,	- - - - -	0
----- under wood,	- - - - -	5
		3945

*Rent of Land, &c.*—The rent of arable land varies according to quality and situation, from L. 2 to 7s. 6d. the imperial acre. Leases are commonly for fifteen or nineteen years.

The yearly rent of labourers' and cottagers' houses, is from L. 1 to L. 5. Those at the lowest rent are miserable hovels; and the rent of the best places them beyond the reach of labourers, or even common tradesmen. It is of great disadvantage that so many of the houses are covered with thatch.

*Prices of Provisions.*—The prices of butter, eggs, and poultry, are regulated by the Dumfries market, of which Reports are published weekly in the Dumfries newspapers; and the Dumfries markets again are very much affected by those of Edinburgh and Glasgow, there being carriers who make a business of transporting such articles to these more distant markets, whenever a profit can be made by them. Indeed, the very cheap and rapid communication which is now established, and continually improving, between the most distant markets, is fast bringing the prices of articles every where nearly to a level, and thus benefiting all classes; raising the prices in remote parts of the country where the articles are produced; and lowering them in cities and towns where they are principally consumed.

*Live Stock.*—The number of horses kept in the parish, almost all farm work-horses of a middle size, is 150. Young horses bred by the farmers, 35; cows kept, 354; young black-cattle, 495; sheep kept through the year, 284; sheep fed on turnips in winter, 1800; swine bred and fattened yearly, 398.

*Rate of Wages, &c.*—The wages of day-labourers are at an average 1s. 6d. in summer, and 1s. 3d. in winter, without victuals. Most of the farm-servants here are unmarried, and are lodged and fed in the farmers' houses. The wages of men-servants vary from L. 9 to L. 14 a-year, and of women-servants from L. 5 to L. 6 a-year. Doing work by the piece is very general; such as mowing,

ditching, and turnip-hoeing. This last costs from 4s. to 5s. the acre.

*Produce.*—The average gross amount and value of raw produce raised in the parish, as nearly as can be ascertained, is as follows :

Produce of grain of all kinds, whether cultivated for food of man, or the domestic animals, (deducting seed,) - - - - -	L. 7201 0 0
———— potatoes, turnips, cabbages, beet, and other plants cultivated in the fields for food, - - - - -	2898 0 0
———— hay, - - - - -	2100 0 0
———— land in pasture, rating it at L. 2 per cow, or full-grown ox, grazed, or that may be grazed for the season; at 6s. per ewe, or full-grown sheep, pastured, or that may be pastured, for the year, - - - - -	1288 0 0
Total value of raw produce raised, - - - - -	L. 13,487 0 0

Of the crop of oats, the greater part is used for feeding horses and swine, and employed as meal for the farmers' families. The potatoe crop is almost all used for the same purposes. More than one-half of the artificial hay is used in feeding the farmers' horses; and almost the whole of the natural hay is used in feeding the farm stock.

*Manufactures.*—In this parish there are no manufactures; but a considerable number of weavers who work in their own houses, some of them country work; but more of them are employed in weaving cotton for the manufacturers of Carlisle and other places, the prices allowed for which vary exceedingly, and, when very low, are attended with great want and misery to the poor weavers.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Means of Communication.*—Dumfries is the post town of the district; and both a mail-coach, and another coach between it and England, pass twice daily through the parish; and a foot post also passes twice every day between Dumfries and Lochmaben, by another turnpike road through this parish. The length of turnpike roads in the parish is about seven miles and a-half; and they are kept in excellent order, as are also the parish roads, which are about twelve miles long, and are kept up by an assessment of L. 1 upon the 100 merks of valued rent, amounting to about L. 36 a-year. At present the assessment is reduced to 15s. per 100 merks, producing only about L. 27 a-year. The roads are now in so good a state that it is thought the annual expenditure of this small sum will keep them in proper repair. The sys-

tem of making and repairing the roads with broken stones, as introduced by Mr Macadam, prevails universally here.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church is a substantial commodious building, erected in 1782; it affords accommodation for 500 persons, and the sittings are all free. It is conveniently situated near the centre of the parish. The manse has been built at three different periods. The oldest part of it was built about 1730; an addition was made about 1791; and another addition in 1809. It is now a large and tolerably convenient house. The stipend is fifteen chalders, half barley, half meal, payable at the rate of the county fiars; and L. 8, 6s. 8d. is given for communion elements. Converted to money at the average of the last seven years, the stipend amounts to L. 248, 1s. 1d. The glebe contains eleven acres of good land, including the garden ground, steads of the manse and offices, and court-yard.

There are no chapels or dissenting meeting-houses of any kind here, though there are in the parish about twenty-eight families of Dissenters, and six poor Irish Roman Catholics. The church is upon the whole well frequented, and is attended by about 224 families. The average number of communicants is about 335.

*Education.*—There are two schools in the parish. One of these is near the church, where English reading, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, geography, Latin, and Greek, are very well taught by an able, diligent, and successful instructor of youth. His yearly salary is L. 31, 6s. 6½d. and the interest of L. 160 of mortified money. The wages paid by the scholars are extremely moderate,—1s. 6d. per quarter for reading, writing, and the four common rules of arithmetic; 3s. per quarter for writing and the higher branches of arithmetic; 5s. per quarter for book-keeping, Latin and Greek. The fees for geography, mathematics, and navigation are generally settled by agreement between the master and scholars. The yearly amount of fees actually received by him may be L. 30. There is a good school-house and schoolmaster's house, and small garden. The number of scholars attending the school is in winter about 120, and in summer about 72. The other school is about two miles to the south of this, at the village of Collin. In it are taught reading, writing, arithmetic, and book-keeping. The wages paid by the scholars for these branches are the same as in the other school. The yearly salary is L. 20, and the amount of fees received may be L. 20 per annum. There is a good school and schoolmaster's house, and about three-fourths of an acre of land, chiefly reclaimed from moss, which is now a considerable advantage to the

master. This school is also well attended. The people of this parish are thus amply provided with opportunities of education, and scarcely any of them arrive at ten years of age without being able to read and write.

*Savings Banks, &c.*—There are no circulating libraries, nor friendly societies, nor savings banks in this parish; but its contiguity to the town of Dumfries, where the inhabitants have an opportunity of joining in any or all of these, renders establishing them in this parish unnecessary. Several of the inhabitants do avail themselves of the opportunity of depositing small sums either in the Dumfries savings bank, or in that of Ruthwell, which is only eight miles distant, and for which it is natural to have a partiality, as being the parent institution established by the worthy and patriotic clergyman of that parish, Dr Henry Duncan.

*Poor.*—The average number of poor persons receiving parochial aid is 21. Of these only four are males, and seventeen females, and almost all are old persons. Among these is divided by the kirk-session about L. 39 annually, arising from collections at the church, and L. 19, 5s., being the interest at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. of a sum, amounting to L. 550, formed out of bequests made to the poor at different times. A general distribution is made four times in the year; but it is also found necessary to make many partial intermediate disbursements. L. 39 divided among twenty-one persons makes an average of L. 1, 17s.  $1\frac{3}{4}$ d. to each person. But this gives no just idea of the actual state of the distribution, which varies very widely according to the circumstances of the paupers; some getting L. 5, 5s. while others not more than L. 1 yearly. The time is past when the poor were ashamed, or thought it degrading, to apply for parochial aid. Though there is not a single proprietor residing in this parish, the poor have hitherto been maintained by voluntary charity, without recourse being had to assessments of any kind. In 1791, the number of persons on the poors' roll was only five; at present, there are twenty-one. Thus the poor have quadrupled, while the number of inhabitants has doubled. At the former period there was distributed among the five paupers only L. 5, 9s. yearly. But at that time a considerable quantity of lint was grown in this district, the spinning of which gave profitable employment to many persons, particularly to old women, and enabled them, in a great measure, to maintain themselves; but the very low price of cotton cloth has now almost entirely supplanted the manufacture of home-made linen, and thus deprived old women of a useful and profitable branch of employ-

ment, for which they have no substitute; and they are thus made much more dependent upon the bounty of others.

*Inns, &c.*—There are no fewer than five ale, or rather whisky houses, in this parish, while there is really no use for one in a place so near Dumfries; and nothing is more pernicious to the industry and morals of the people.

*Fuel.*—The parish is well supplied with fuel, consisting chiefly of peats, from Lochar Moss. But an abundant supply of coals also is brought by sea from the opposite English coast to Dumfries, and sold there for about 13s. or 14s. the ton.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

*Lochar Moss.*—The most obvious and important improvements which are wanted in this parish are, *1st*, the draining and dressing the moss and meadows along Lochar, which, as before-mentioned, are very extensive. There is enough of declivity in this moss to admit of its being sufficiently drained for culture, if a straight wide course were cut for the water of Lochar, and a mill-dam removed, which is near the southern end of it in the parish of Car-laverock, and which at present stops up the water, and raises it to the height of six or seven feet. This great interruption to the drainage is all for the sake of a small trifling mill, which yields very little rent to the proprietor, and is hardly of any consequence to the tenants. If this mill-dam were removed, and a proper course cut for the main water all along the moss, with the necessary lateral drains,—improvements which could be done at a very moderate expense, it is not easy to calculate the vast quantity of ground now useless that might be formed into valuable meadows. The principal proprietors of this great moss are the Marquis of Queensberry, Sir Robert Grierson, Bart., Mr Paterson, the Earl of Mansfield, Mr Maxwell of Nithsdale, Mr Douglas of Craigs, Mr Heron, and Mr Johnston of Carnsalloch. Where so many proprietors are concerned, it is not easy to induce them to agree and co-operate heartily in any one plan. But the draining and improving of this vast moss, which lies in a low country, in a healthy warm climate, and on the edge of the sea, is evidently so much for the advantage of all concerned, is so plain and simple an operation, and might be completed at so small an expense, in comparison with the return it would make to the proprietors, that it is most wonderful, and much to be regretted, that it has been neglected so long, although it has been in contemplation for seventy or eighty years. About

the beginning of that period, Charles Duke of Queensberry, who was then proprietor of a large portion of this moss, and whose memory, for his benevolence and public spirit, is still held in veneration by all the inhabitants of this part of the country, employed Smeaton, the most eminent civil engineer of that time, to survey the moss and make a plan and estimate of the expense of draining and improving it. The survey, plan, and estimate were made, and are published in Dr Singer's Agricultural Account of Dumfriesshire; but unfortunately the plan has never been followed out. The work could not be properly carried on unless the whole proprietors were cordially to co-operate, and it is not easy to say when this may happen. The estimated expense when Mr Smeaton made his survey was only L. 2952.\*

*2d*, Much benefit would arise to the parish from the building of more substantial and commodious farm-steadings, and if more attention were paid to the rearing and managing thorn hedges for inclosing and subdividing the farms.

*3d*, It would also be of great advantage, particularly on the higher grounds of this parish, if plantations were to be reared in different places. These would not only beautify the country, but, by the shelter they would afford, render the climate warmer, and contribute very much to the comfort and improvement of the cattle, which thrive but very poorly at present on the high grounds, exposed to every cold blast.

*4th*, The greatest improvement which has lately taken place in agriculture here is the introduction and general adoption of the culture of turnips. It is not more than seven or eight years since this has become general; it is of the greatest advantage to the tenants, and enables them to pay rents which would otherwise have been ruinous to them. The soil is very much adapted to turnips, the crops are in general good, and the following crops of barley and grass are wonderfully improved by the feeding of sheep on the turnip fields.

*December 1833.*

\* The method which appears most likely for accomplishing an extensive work of this kind, in which so many proprietors are concerned, is for some skilful and enterprising individual, with sufficient capital, to obtain a long lease of the whole from the proprietors for a rent very low at first, (but more than it yields at present,) and gradually rising, with full right to cut the main course straight, and such other lateral drains as he may find necessary. To enable the proprietors to grant such a lease, an act of Parliament would be required, as great part of the property is under entail.



# PARISH OF TINWALD AND TRAILFLAT.

PRESBYTERY OF DUMFRIES, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.

THE REV. GEORGE GREIG, MINISTER.

THE REV. GEORGE GREIG, JUNIOR, ASSISTANT AND SUCCESSOR.\*

---

## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name and Boundaries.*—IN the Account formerly given of this parish, the name Tinwald is supposed to be derived from the Gaelic, and to signify the *harbour*; or from the Saxon, and to signify *the house in the wood*. Whatever may be the import of the latter syllable of the word, which in the old presbytery records is spelt *wald*, the former, viz. *Tin* or *Ting*, appears more probably to have been derived from the *Ting*, or court of the ancient Saxons or Scandinavians, who at one time possessed a considerable portion of the country. *Tings* or courts are well known to have been held in the open air; and immediately adjoining the church here, there is a mound (which a few years ago was perfectly entire, but is now much defaced “*Seges est ubi Troja fuit*”) evidently artificial, and said to bear a striking resemblance to one bearing the same name in the Isle of Man, upon which local courts were held, until a very recent period. *Tingwall* in Shetland appears to have derived its name from the same circumstance.—(See *Peveril of the Peak*, Vol. i. ch. v. Note 2d.) *Trailflat* is probably from a Gaelic etymon, which signifies *a sloping wet side*. It was united to Tinwald in 1650.

The united parish forms an irregular figure of about 6 miles by 4 in its extreme length and breadth, and contains about 15 square miles. It is bounded by the parish of Kirkmichael upon the north; by that of Lochmaben upon the east; by those of Torthorwald and Dumfries upon the south and south-west; and by that of Kirkmahoe upon the west and north-west.

\* This Account has been drawn up by the Assistant Minister.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The only hills in the parish are the northern part of a range which extends to the S. E. through the parishes of Torthorwald and Mousewald, and sinks gradually as it approaches the Solway; their acclivity is in most cases gentle, and with scarcely an exception they admit of cultivation to the tops. The elevation of the highest hill above the level of the sea, according to barometrical measurement, is 682 feet.

*Hydrography.*—There is one lake in the parish, called the Murder Loch. It is of small extent, and has been considerably diminished lately by means of draining. It is now only about eighteen feet at its greatest depth.

The only streams connected with the parish worth noticing are the Ae and the Lochar; the former of which forms the northern boundary of the parish. It has its source from the Queensberry hill, whence it proceeds in a southern direction, separating the parish of Kirkmichael from those of Closeburn and Kirkmahoe; then turning to the east, it separates Kirkmichael from Tinwald, joins the Kinnel near its southern extremity, and with it falls into the Annan above Lochmaben. It is a rapid stream, very liable to floods, which come down from the high grounds with great velocity, and often do considerable damage. Its bed being of a gravelly nature, this stream is continually undermining its banks and changing its course.

The Lochar commences near a small village upon the Edinburgh road, called Jericho, where two rivulets of nearly the same size (the one forming for a considerable space the western boundary of the parish) join together, and afterwards assume that name. It separates the parishes of Tinwald and Dumfries so far as they lie contiguous.

*Geology.*—The rocks of which the hills in this parish are composed consist entirely of greywackè and greywackè slate, all of which dip towards the south at almost every degree of inclination, some being nearly vertical, others nearly horizontal. There are a few trifling veins (scarcely worthy of the name perhaps) of crystallized felspar, to be met with amongst them. Peat-moss is pretty extensive; but there is none of any depth, except a small portion upon the eastern boundary of the parish, and that lying contiguous to the Lochar, most of which has been improved.

*Soil.*—There is a considerable variety of soil in the parish. On the south-western boundary of the parish, there is the moss at the side of the Lochar, already mentioned, and extending to about

a mile in length, by a quarter of a mile in breadth,—which has been converted into meadow of very superior quality. Next to this, upon the east, and closing round it upon the north, is a range of fields from a quarter to half a mile in breadth, of a sandy gravel: The materials of which these fields are composed have evidently been transported by water. The range now referred to extends (N. W.) through the parish of Kirkmahoe; and there is every probability that the old tradition, of such having once been the course of the Nith, is correct. Above these fields, and farther from the Lochar, is a range of much greater length as well as breadth, extending to about two-thirds of the whole length of the parish, and consisting of a dry clay loam (very much mixed in some places with small stones) of great fertility, and well adapted to every variety of crop. This latter description of soil extends to the top, and (except at one place, where they form a sort of double range, with about a mile by three-fourths of moor and moss intervening,) quite over the hills, until it terminates in a moss upon the eastern side. That towards the east, however, is of a stiffer and more retentive clay, rather spongy, and from its less favourable exposure, not so well adapted for cultivation. The north and north-west portion of the parish, with a small exception immediately upon the banks of the Ae, consists of a cold moorish clay, covered in some places by a few inches of peat, and very unproductive. In the middle of Lochar meadow, there is a pretty high ridge, still called the *Isle*, upwards of half a mile in length, and containing about thirty Scotch acres; which is entirely composed of sea sand, and evidently shows that at one time the tide must have flowed in this direction. In confirmation of this, it is said to have been found marked upon an old Dutch chart, “that the isles of Tinwald afforded the safest and most commodious harbour for shipping in Scotland.”—Nearly opposite to the manse, too, at the bottom of what in former times must have been a deep narrow *gut*, there is a place called *Collyveat*, or *Cully veat*, where there is the visible formation of a small bay. There was a ferry, it has been supposed, at this place; and Cully veat is said to be a corruption of Collin’s boat. A much more probable supposition, however, and one rendered doubly so by the circumstance of the Dutch having been acquainted with the Tinwald isles and harbours, is that the name in question signifies the *foot of the gully*, *voet* being the low Dutch for foot. According to others it is of Gaelic extraction, and should be spelt *cully vat*, which signifies *a harbour for boats*.

*Zoology*.—The *Aphides*, a small green insect, sometimes ap-

pear, and do very considerable damage, especially to the Swedish turnips. They are most destructive in dry hot weather, when there is a deficiency of moisture in the atmosphere for the purposes of vegetation. The eggs are deposited upon the under side of the leaves of the most luxuriant plants, on the juice of which, after having been hatched, they live during the different stages of their progressive existence. Two years ago, I saw a small field of Swedes almost entirely destroyed by these little creatures; the leaves were covered with hundreds upon every square inch, and in the course of about three weeks, except the back stem, and one or two of the larger veins, they were almost entirely withered away. In moist or genial weather they are seldom to be met with, and then, when they do appear, vegetation is so vigorous, that the plants are able to sustain them, without receiving essential injury. Hot lime and salt are sometimes employed to destroy them, but generally without much effect. The turnip crops, however, are, at an earlier stage, and just as they begin to appear above ground, exposed to the depredations of another very destructive insect, usually, though perhaps improperly, called the turnip fly—the *Haltica nemorum* of entomologists: whole fields are sometimes so entirely destroyed by it, that it is found necessary to sow them a second time; which seldom succeeds.

*Botany.*—The rarer plants occurring in the parish are the following:

Hippuris vulgaris	Briza media	Paris quadrifolia
Circeæ Lutetiana	Festuca Myurus	Adoxa moschatellina
Veronica Anagallis	—— gigantea	Andromeda polifolia
—— montana	—— elatior	Stellaria nemorum
Utricularia vulgaris	Bromus asper	—— glauca
Lycopus europæus	Echium vulgare	Arenaria trinervis
Valeriana dioica	Primula vulgaris*	Prunus Padus
Fedia dentata	Campanula latifolia	—— insititia
Phalaris canariensis	Jasione montana,†	Geum urbanum, Var. β‡
Milium effusum	Solanum Dulcamara	Aquilegia vulgaris
Aira aquatica	Rhamnus Frangula	Ranunculus auricomus §
Melica uniflora	Sium verticillatum	Trollius europæus
Poa decumbens	Cicuta virosa	Lepidium campestre

\* Var. β Smith's English Flora, having some flower-stalks forming an umbel, and elevated on a common stalk, a few remaining single from the root.

† Common in this neighbourhood, but not found upon the east coast.

‡ Supposed by Smith to be a hybrid between *G. urbanum* and *G. rivale*.

§ The variety in which the petals are deficient is most prevalent. I am not aware of a single specimen having been found in the parish where more than two were present, and even of these generally one is imperfectly formed.

Camelina sativa *	Eupatorium cannabinum	Carex curta
Cardamine amara	Epipactus latifolia	—— fulva
Barbarea vulgaris	Carex dioica	—— recurva
Nasturtium terrestre	—— intermedia	Aspidium lobatum
Tragopogon pratensis	—— paniculata	Botrychium Lunaria

A large portion of the parish was at one time covered with wood, the greater part of which was cut down by the last Duke of Queensberry; and now, except a quantity upon the estate of Amisfield, very little remains. The soil seems most congenial to oak and ash. We have also a few small belts of Scotch and larch fir; but these have all been planted. There is also here and there a tree of the more common descriptions, both of hard and of soft wood. The church and churchyard are surrounded by a thick row, at some places double, of large planes and ashes, upwards of a hundred years old. Of these, however, there are a greater number, and many of them of a greater age, upon the policy at Amisfield. And in the garden there, there is an old holly whose stem below the branches measures *nine feet by seven and a-half* as its mean girth. Its branches are rather peculiarly formed: for immediately upon the top of the trunk they diverge all around in such a manner as to form a large open space in the middle, where a number of people might conceal themselves.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Eminent Men.*—1. The first person, in point of date, of any eminence connected with the parish appears to be Sir Thomas Charteris of Amisfield, who was appointed Lord High Chancellor of Scotland by Alexander III. in 1280. He seems to have been the first layman that ever held that office.—(*Douglas' Baronage of Scotland*, Vol. i. p. 150.)—2. Sir Thomas Charteris, his great grandson, also connected with the parish, was appointed to the same office by King David in 1134. He was killed at the battle of Durham, where his royal master was taken prisoner.—(*Ibid.*) 3. We find Sir John Charteris, also of Amisfield, holding, in the reign of James V., the office of Warden of the West Marches, one of the most important under the crown: and there is a traditionary story of rather a singular visit having been paid him by the king, which led to consequences by which the family were in a great measure reduced.—(*Forsyth's Beauties of Scotland*, Vol. ii. p. 312.) This family was still farther reduced by the severities directed against it by the govern-

\* This, with *Phalaris canariensis*, has been found only among young grass, with the seeds of which it may probably have been imported.

ment of the Protector, in consequence of the active aid lent by Sir John Charteris to Montrose towards the restoration of King Charles. 4. "The famous Paterson, too, who planned the Darien scheme, and the Bank of England, &c. was born at Skipmire, in the old parish of Trailflat, about the year 1660. The same house gave birth to his grand-nephew, Dr James Mounsey, first physician for many years to the Empress of Russia." 5. General Fead, also, was born at Fulton, in this parish, about the year 1720. He enlisted a private in the British artillery, and rose from the ranks to be a general, and a very distinguished officer.

*Land-owners.*—The chief land-owners in the parish are the Marquis of Queensberry, Douglas of Craigs, Charteris of Amisfield, and Dalzell of Glenae.

*Parochial Register.*—The only register in the parish regularly kept for any length of time is that of births; the earliest entry in which is on April 4, 1762.

*Antiquities.*—There are distinct traces of a camp of considerable size upon the top of Barshell hill, which, from its round form, is supposed to have been British. There are also the visible remains of three smaller forts, one upon the farm of Shielhill, another at Highauchnane, and the third at Amisfield. The last, approaching to a square, may possibly have been a Roman station, where a cohort or two may occasionally have been placed. What renders this more probable is, that the old Roman road from Burnswark by Trailflat passed close by. At Amisfield, also, there is an old baronial tower, still perfectly entire, said to be the most perfect of the kind now existing in the kingdom.

The old place of Tinwald, situated in what was formerly a part of Lochar Moss, and the seat of a branch of the Maxwell family, seems to have been well fitted for a place of defence. Till within a few years, part of the old building remained. It is now entirely demolished, and the materials have been removed.

*Modern Buildings.*—There are three mansion-houses in the parish,—that of Glenae, belonging to Major Dalzell,—that of Tinwald, belonging to the Marquis of Queensberry; and Amisfield, the seat of the old family of Charteris. "The surname Charteris" (says Douglas in his Baronage of Scotland,) "is of great antiquity in Scotland. It is the opinion of some antiquaries that it is of French extraction,—that William, a son of the Earl of Charteris in France, came to England with William

the Conqueror,—that a son or grandson of his came to Scotland with King David the First, and was the progenitor of all of the sirname of Charteris in this kingdom; and certain it is they began to make a figure in the south of Scotland soon after that era.”

### III.—POPULATION.

In 1801, the population was	-	980
1811,	-	1204
1821,	-	1248
1831,	-	1220

The decrease during the last twelve years has been occasioned by a great many cottages having been thrown down in the progress of improvement. There seems to be a general disposition among the proprietors to continue this practice, as the present cottars die out or remove.

Amount of population residing in villages,	-	-	-	361
in the country part of parish,	-	-	-	854
1. Number of families in the parish,	-	-	-	233
of families chiefly employed in agriculture,	-	-	-	128
in trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	-	-	-	53
2. Number of unmarried men, bachelors or widowers, upwards of 50 years of age,	17			
of unmarried women, including widows, upwards of 45,	-	-	-	74
3. The average number of births yearly for the last seven years,	-	-	-	28
of deaths,	-	-	-	11
of marriages,*	-	-	-	8
4. The number of persons at present under 15 years of age,	-	-	-	440
upwards of 70,	-	-	-	40
5. The number of proprietors of land of the yearly value of L.50 and upwards,	7			

The people, with few exceptions, are sober, cleanly, and industrious, strictly honest, and abundantly comfortable and contented with their situation and circumstances. Oatmeal pottage, with milk, is the general breakfast of the peasantry, and of the younger portion of every family in the parish. Potatoes among the working-classes commonly occupy a principal place both at dinner and supper.

### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture and Rural Economy.*—There are (as nearly as I have been able to ascertain,) 9405 imperial acres in the parish, roads, fences, &c. included; and of these there are about 119 acres under wood, 350 in meadow, and 1647 which never have been cultivated, Of the last there may be a few acres, perhaps,

\* Returns respecting marriages can scarcely be relied on, as the parties very frequently belong to different parishes, and it is probable that in many cases their marriages may be returned for two parishes.

upon which the soil is so thin as not to admit of being pared and burnt; and in this case, when lime and manure must both be driven from a distance, the profits arising from cultivation might not be great. But in general the uncultivated land in the parish is either moss, or moor, of sufficient depth, and will eventually pay well for improvement, which is gradually, though slowly, advancing. Probably 1500 acres might, with a profitable application of capital, be added to the cultivated land of the parish.

*Rent of Land.*—Arable land rents from 6s. to L. 2, 8s. per acre, averaging about 16s. The average rate of grazing is, per cow, L. 3; per ox, L. 2; and per ewe, or full-grown sheep, for the year, 10s.

*Rate of Wages.*—Farm-servants are commonly hired by the half year; exclusive of board, men-servants receive from L. 5, 10s. to L. 6; women, L. 2, 5s. to L. 2, 12s. Labourers engaged by the day are paid, in summer, with victuals,—men, from 1s. to 1s. 2d.; women, 6d: without victuals during summer, men receive from 1s. 6d. to 1s. 8d.; women, 9d., except during harvest, when men and women receive the same rates, which are frequently 2s., and sometimes 2s. 6d., according to the demand. In winter, without victuals, men are paid 1s. 3d. per day; women, 8d. Mason and carpenter-work is commonly done by the piece; but when employed by the day, which occasionally happens, masons, with victuals, charge 3s.; without victuals, 3s. 6d.: carpenters, with victuals, 2s.; without victuals, 2s. 6d. Tailors are paid, with victuals, at the rate of 1s. 3d. per day.

*Breeds of Live Stock.*—The common breed of cattle is the Galloway; and very considerable attention has been for some time, and is still, paid to its improvement. Of late years, the Ayrshire breed has been introduced, and seems to be gaining ground. Of this latter description only the queys are reared; and these when nearly three years old, and in calf, are in great demand in the English market.

*Husbandry.*—Farming is not in greater perfection in any part of Scotland than in this parish. Upon the best dry arable land, what is called the five-shift rotation, is followed, *i. e.* 1st year, oats; 2d, potatoes or turnips fed off by sheep; 3d, wheat or barley, sown down with clover and rye-grass; 4th, hay; and 5th, pasture.

Upon cold land, not fit for wheat and barley, a seven years rotation is generally followed, *viz.* two crops of oats, one rape fed off by



sheep, another oats, sown down with grass seeds, and three years' pasture. Our best farmers plant but few potatoes, and cut only a small portion of their sown hay: even that, however, they never do upon their poor land, but allow it the advantage of an additional year's pasturage.

It is only about fifteen years since turnip husbandry and good farming were introduced into the parish. Previous to this period, the land was much over-cropped, and this seems still the prevailing error into which the less judicious of the tenantry are apt to fall. Most of the brushwood in the parish has been rooted; and draining, levelling of moss, paring and burning of moor, liming, &c. are carried on to a considerable extent every year. Irrigation is also practised where water can be had conveniently, but not to any great extent.

The duration of leases is generally 19 years; and for land adapted to the *five-shift* rotation none could be more favourable. Generally the new tenant enters at Whitsunday to the grass and green crop lands, while the old tenant has the white crop then upon the ground. Thus a nineteen years' lease allows five seasons for cleaning and improving, the whole of which time is required before the farm is got regularly over, and three full rotations afterwards, by which time it is sufficiently prepared for a new supply of lime, &c. The state of farm-buildings, with three or four exceptions, is far from being good. The advantages of enclosing and subdividing are fully appreciated; and nearly the whole arable part of the parish has been laid out in fields, surrounded by sufficient fences.

The principal improvement recently made in the parish is the cultivation of the high grounds; which the farmers have been able to effect by means of *bone manure*. These grounds are in general so difficult of access, that nothing bulky can be conveyed to them without a trouble and expense far exceeding the profit: and formerly, when they became fogged, to which they have a tendency, they were commonly broken up; and after carrying a crop or two, they were again laid out to improve themselves without any farther assistance. But now that bruised bones sufficient for a Scotch acre can be taken up in a single cart, (30 imperial bushels being the usual quantity,) we have the most luxuriant crops of turnip, and, consequently, of grain, upon the very tops of the hills. Rape dust is also used as a manure, in the proportion of about 10 and 12 cwt. to an acre.

*Produce.*—The average gross amount of raw produce raised in the parish, as nearly as can be ascertained, is as follows :

Wheat, 6871 imperial bushels at 6s. 3d.	-	-	L. 2147	3	9
Barley, 11,829 imperial bushels at 3s. 2d.	-	-	1872	18	6
Oats, 44,315 imperial bushels at 1s. 10d.	-	-	4062	4	2
Potatoes, 30,636 cwts. at 1s. 3d.	-	-	1914	15	0
Turnips, 375 acres Scotch at L. 3,	-	-	1125	0	0
Meadow hay, 51,200 stones of 24 lbs. at 3d.	-	-	640	0	0
Rye-grass hay, 50,210 stones of 24 lbs. at 6d.	-	-	1255	5	0
Cows grazed, 412 at L. 3,	-	-	1236	0	0
Cattle grazed, 657 at L. 2,	-	-	1314	0	0
Straw consumed by the above 1069 cattle at 10s.	-	-	534	10	0
Pigs, while fed upon grass, 504 at L. 1, 5s.	-	-	630	0	0
Sheep wintered upon grass, 65 scores at L. 4,	-	-	260	0	0
Sheep grazed during the year, 27 scores at L. 10,	-	-	270	0	0
Additional cattle wintered upon straw, 841 at 10s.	-	-	420	10	0
Young horses, 70 at L. 7,	-	-	490	0	0
Orchards, L. 20,	-	-	20	0	0
Annual sales of wood, L. 20,	-	-	20	0	0
Total,			L. 18,212	6	5

There are 83 pairs of farm-horses constantly employed in agricultural labour within the parish; and there are about 2000 Highland wedders fed off upon turnip annually. The produce or rent of cottages may be about L. 213 per annum.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Towns.*—Dumfries, our principal market-town, lies upon the S. W. of, and is distant about six miles from, the middle of the parish. There are also occasional markets at Lochmaben and Lockerby, which lie upon the east,—the latter about the same distance as Dumfries, the former three miles nearer. Dumfries and Lochmaben are our post towns. About four miles of the turnpike road between Dumfries and Edinburgh lie within the parish; upon which a mail-coach passes and repasses daily. Our parish roads and bridges are in an excellent state of repair.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church is situated rather inconveniently upon the western side of the parish, about a mile from the one extremity, and five from the other. It was built in 1763, is a long narrow rectangular house, without either aisle or gallery. It is in a state of good repair, and affords accommodation for about 400 sitters. The seats are all common, except the few which have been attached to the principal farms, and those which are occupied by resident proprietors. The manse was built in 1720, and underwent considerable repairs in 1790, and also in 1800.

The glebe consists of about seventeen Scotch acres, fences, &c.

included; it is all arable, and if let might bring of yearly rent from L. 30 to L. 35.

The stipend is composed of L. 114, 4s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. money; 265 stones imperial of oatmeal; 77.676 imperial bushels of barley; and L. 8, 12s. 10d. of Government allowance,—communion elements included. The amount of the stipend in money is L. 150.

The parish church is the only place of public worship in the parish; though occasionally the dissenters make use of a barn as a sort of chapel. There are 22 families, consisting of 87 individuals, who do not attend the Established church. Of these, two families consisting of 9 individuals, are Roman Catholics, and one, consisting of 8 individuals, ranks among the Independents. The rest are dissenters and seceders. The Established church, however, has always been well attended: and the people in general have a proper sense of the importance of the public ordinances of religion. The Sacrament is dispensed once in the year, and usually to about 400 communicants.

Collections in the church average about L. 30 yearly; and once in the three years or thereabouts a collection, amounting to L. 12 or L. 15, is made for some religious or charitable purpose, in which the parish is not immediately interested.

*Education.*—There are two schools in the parish, both parochial, at which all the ordinary branches of education are taught. The principal schoolmaster has two chalders of oatmeal, and the interest of L. 114 of mortified money, for a salary, amounting in whole to L. 37, 12s. 9d. The other has one chalders, and the interest of L. 77,—in money, L. 19, 8s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Both have the legal accommodation;—the former a great deal more.

The wages paid in the parish school may be stated upon an average to amount to L. 30 per annum. Children are commonly sent to school about four and five years of age, and no persons above six years old are unable to read. The people are fully alive to the advantages of instruction, and would much rather deprive themselves of many of the comforts of life than withhold from their children the benefits of a liberal education.

*Savings Bank.*—Some years ago there was a savings bank in the parish, which at first, while the thing was new, and the per centage high, succeeded pretty well. But as soon as the novelty was over, and the rate of interest reduced, it gradually went backwards, and was at last given up as no longer beneficial,—the people generally preferring to go to the larger banks, where they can deposit their

money, without any one attending, either to what they have or what they have not.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—We have 14 individuals upon our poors' roll, who regularly receive parochial relief; but of these there is only one entirely dependent upon the parish, and for his board L. 4 per annum is paid. The others receive from L. 1 to L. 2 yearly, according to their necessities. There are about 6 or 8 more who require a little occasional assistance.

The annual amount of contributions for support of the poor are, our church collections, which average about L. 26 in the year, and the interest of L. 300, mortified by various charitable persons. Besides these, the Duke of Queensberry allows six free cottages to poor old women; and the late Mr Douglas of Craigs was a regular benefactor of the poor, as well as a very generous landlord.

The poor in general are at first very averse to seek parochial relief; and there are individuals in the parish who, I believe, would almost rather starve than have recourse to it. This noble spirit of independence I do all in my power to encourage. But when once individuals are fairly upon the roll, they soon lose all feeling of delicacy, take their allowance as their right, and in some instances, instead of being thankful for the portion they receive, upbraid the members of the session with partiality in the distribution.

For the last four years, (the period during which I have had the management of the poors' funds,) not a single name has been added to the *public* list. I find from experience that 8s. or 10s. given privately (when the people can rely upon the discretion of the donor) will excite more gratitude, and afford more true comfort, than a *pound* given otherwise.

*Alehouses.*—There are at present two small dram-shops in the parish, which we have the prospect of soon getting rid of. They have the worst possible effect upon the morals of the people: and there is scarcely a crime brought before a court that has not originated in, or been somehow connected with, one of these nests of iniquity. All our toll-keepers have houses of this description, and our country roads are to a considerable extent maintained by the gains of intemperance. We are highly indebted to the Circuit Judges for the severe terms in which they occasionally reprobate the tolerance of such places. Their reproofs have had a good effect.

*Fuel.*—The common fuel used is peat, a great part of which is procured in Lochar Moss, in the parish of Dumfries. In cases

where the material has to be paid for, a single horse load costs from 1s. 6d. to 2s.; and when moss is attached to the farm or house, the load costs from 1s. to 1s. 6d. according to the difficulty of cutting. Coals are beginning to come into more general use. These are brought from the English coast to Dumfries by water, and are sold commonly about 8s. per cart load. They are also to be had at Sanquhar, at about 3s. per cart load.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The time of sowing oats and barley is about ten days earlier now, than that stated in the former Statistical Account of the parish; and wheat after turnips is very frequently sown about the end of December, and sometimes even later. The average rent, especially of the best arable and meadow land, is fully double of what it seems to have been then. Dry hard land, which formerly was not worth one-third of the holm land per acre, is now (in consequence of the facility with which bone manure, &c. can be procured) fully equal to that in value. There are not now above five scores of stock sheep in the parish. The rental of the parish, which at the time the former Statistical Account was written, is stated to have been L. 2559, is now L. 6208. The population has increased from 850 to 1215. The weekly church collections have advanced from L. 15 to L. 26 per annum; and the mortified money from L. 140 to L. 300. The wages of day labourers have been raised from 1s. to 1s. 6d.; carpenters from 1s. 10d. to 2s. 6d.; masons from 1s. 10d. to 3s. 6d.; tailors from 8d. to 1s. 3d. And the minister's stipend has been advanced from L. 77, 4s. to L. 150. Parish roads, then reported to have been bad, are now excellent: all Macadamized.

The parish is very properly divided into small and large farms, varying from L. 40 to L. 600 of rental, thus affording for all classes a sufficient motive to industry. The servant, by frugality and care, raises himself to a small tenant, and the small tenant is, by the same means, raised to a greater. This system of progressive advancement, however, can never possibly come into salutary operation, so long as the *law of hypothec* is permitted to remain. A man who has little or nothing to lose is much less timorous, and much more ready to bind himself for the payment of a large rent, than one possessed of capital. And as the law now is, a proprietor has little interest in being scrupulous about a tenant, for, lose who may, it must be his own fault if he ever do; while the tenant, if so dis-

posed, has it in his power to practice the grossest frauds upon his creditors.

Nothing, however, would contribute more to promote the comfort and happiness of the labouring classes in this quarter, than the good government and general improvement of Ireland. We are constantly infested with swarms of Irish vagrants, who, besides being in general superior workers with the spade, have commonly, while they remain, their wives engaged in begging, if not in stealing, and are thus enabled to undertake work at a lower rate than that by which our own countrymen can support themselves.

*January 1834.*

# PARISH OF KIRKMAHOE.

PRESBYTERY OF DUMFRIES, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.

THE REV. JOHN WIGHTMAN, MINISTER.

---

## L.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name and Boundaries.*—THE name of the parish is of doubtful origin, but perhaps it may signify the church in the valley, or in the plain, near or by the river. Indeed, the Nith is still not far from the church, and has left evident proofs of its having, at some former period, run close by the church walls, and passed through Lochar Moss in its way to the Solway Frith. The parish is bounded by Dumfries on the S. and S. E.; by Holywood on the W.; by Dunscore on the N. W.; by Closeburn on the N.; and by Kirkmichael and Tinwald on the N. E. and E. It is  $7\frac{1}{4}$  miles in length, and, at its greatest breadth, it is  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles broad. It contains between 18 and 19 square miles.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The hills range from N. to S., with peaks pointing eastward, and the exposure is W. and S. W.,—the land rising gradually till it terminates in heights, some of which are 600, and some 670, feet above the level of the sea. Wardlaw (Guard hill) and Auchengeith hill rise 770 feet above the sea level, and have a declivity southward. Our hill streams have in several places formed “hermit-fancied caves” for their Naiads out of the living rock, in the most curious style; and there is a cave at Crofthead of Dalswinton which deserves to be mentioned. Kirkmahoe is entirely an inland parish, but there is a beautiful view of the sea, from the uplands and hills, especially the Watchman’s hill, where in a clear day the Solway is seen in the distance.

*Meteorology.*—The medium temperature is about  $47^{\circ}$  and the prevailing winds are the W. and the S. W. We, as well as others, have our prognostics of changes in the weather. Not to mention the signs afforded by Criffel, a high hill which overlooks the estuary of the Nith, we may notice that if, during the day, the

face of nature be remarkably bland and sweet, and, especially, if in the afternoon, a certain sunny softness seem to sleep on the landscape, or if the hamlet's smoke rise in long straight pillars, a very heavy fall of rain is likely to take place before the close of next day. So also at night, when the galaxy is vivid and strongly defined, and the stars are twinkling with a sickly lustre, a similar sequence may be expected.

The splendid meteor, or *Draco volans* of 1783, was distinctly seen and carefully observed by the writer of this account, while it sailed in superb majesty over the town and neighbourhood of Dumfries, with a tremendous length of train, (*longo tractu, a tergo albescente!*) and while it moved equably in a S. E. direction, sinking at last from view towards the mouth of the river Annan, when a rumbling noise was heard as if some huge mass of red-hot iron had there fallen into the sea.

*Hydrography.*—The river Nith, though it intersects a small corner of the parish at Isle, may perhaps be said rather to form its west boundary than to be one of its streams. We have several streamlets or burns, however, which are generally very romantic and picturesque in their scenery, and abound in trout. In the Duncow or Newlands burn there are three waterfalls, one of which, (the *Whitehall* or *Glencarrick leap*,) when the stream is swollen with heavy rains, presents a sight peculiarly striking.

*Geology.*—On the rocky banks of some of our streams, beds or strata of stone are observable, generally dipping to the west. There is a red freestone quarry (wrought with pick and wedges) at Quarrel (Quarry) wood, having its dip in the same direction; and there is at the same place a variety of sandstone impregnated with that variety of red iron ore used by the natives of Southern Africa in painting their bodies and powdering their hair, which has been noticed by geologists. Some white marl has been found in the southern parts of the parish. Near the middle of the parish, in sinking for water, 60 feet of loose watery gravel were found, and beneath the gravel, 12 or 14 feet of very fine sand of a red colour, and soft as brown sugar. The depth of this bed is not known. On the high grounds are often found mossy strata about six inches thick, then a bed of earthy gravel, after that, red *till*, schist, and decomposed slaty rocks. A gravelly soil, inclining much to sand, intermixed with small round stones, is generally found on the *braes* or sloping grounds, while there is on the low lying or *holm* land an alluvial soil intimately mingled with clay, and apparently



resting on water. The banks of the Nith, at the fords, are covered with heaps of small stones of almost every shape and colour. Some of them are curiously marked with straight, some with curved lines, some with spots of various hues, and some are graced with red circles. Many are of a soft and snowy whiteness, and not a few of a creamy paleness. These two last kinds appear to be peculiar to the valley rivers, and are not to be found in our mountain streams,—at least of such fine grain and quality. The strath and the rising ground, also, from the river to the very tops of the distant eminences, are full of pebbles and rolling-stones, evidently smoothed and rounded by attrition; and here and there specimens of farcilitite or pudding-stone may be observed, and small stones embodied with larger ones. The Nith, it would appear, at different periods, and by different tracts respectively, has run through all these undulating grounds before it sunk, in the lapse of centuries, to its now lowly bed, or before they rose to their present various heights. But by what instrumental agency was this depression, or this elevation, effected? The fresh water of our streams, and the briny surges of the Solway, may have been at work “in old dusky time,” with the aid of some electric or elastic auxiliaries, (some subterranean fires, or submarine springs?) forming those high and hollow places which now exhibit the appearance of a swelling sea, converted into grass and corn-fields.

*Botany.*—Under this head there is nothing peculiar to the parish; but it may be mentioned, that we have many plantations, less or more extensive; and we have, in various places, a great number of beautiful trees, some of which stand in social clumps, and others in solitary state, on the lands of Dalswinton, Carnsalloch, Milnhead, Carzield, Kemysball, Whitehall, Netherhall, Auchencairn, Glenmaid; and in other parts of the parish there are plantations of various sorts of timber; and new plantations are rising on every hand. The prospect is thus finely diversified, and the grounds exhibit a rich and sheltered appearance. At Dalswinton there are many stately Scots elms, some in graceful ranks, and some in no less agreeable confusion, while others stand majestically alone. There are also here fine beeches, some of which measure above twelve feet in circumference at the height of four feet. A noble ash stands here also, measuring 21 feet in circumference, and containing 300 feet of solid timber. In one of the parks there is a gigantic oak, under the protection of whose knotted arms, it has been said that 1000 armed men might

easily stand without jostling one another. There are also some large and stately trees on the estate of Carnsalloch. Two noble files of beeches, planted by the late Alexander Johnston, Esq. and which were among the first hedge-rows in this part of the country, form, when they are in leaf, a fine berceau-canopy over the head of the traveller on the public road, and afford him a pleasant vista on his way to or from Dumfries. Near the mansion-house of Carnsalloch there is a Spanish or sweet chestnut, very remarkable for its size and beauty. At the head of the huge trunk, it branches out into four large arms nearly equal in size, one of which was broken in February 1827 by a high wind, but the other three are almost entire. In August 1826, this tree contained 528 cubic feet of timber. The trunk now (Jan. 8, 1834,) is 28 feet, each of the three remaining branches 11 feet in circumference, and the average diameter of the ground over-canopied by its grandly spreading boughs is 18 paces! Not far from Carnsalloch gate, on the east side of the road, stands a venerable oak, which contains 282 cubic feet of wood. The trunk itself contains 117 feet of solid timber, and is 9 feet 7 inches high, and 25 paces are the average ground which this gnarled dignitary overhangs with his giant arms. It is not yet twenty years since this tree was seriously believed by some otherwise sensible persons to be haunted by a spirit.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Historical Notices.*—Four large estates, which in former times were much more extensive than they are now, constituted the principal part of this parish; and a short notice of these will, in some degree, illustrate this head of its statistics.

1. *Dalswinton*, or the Dale of Swinton. We find this estate first in the possession of the Cumins, and afterwards in that of the Stewarts. "In 1250, Sir John Cumin possessed the manor of Dalswinton, and Duncol, or Duncow, and in that year he gave the monks of Melrose a free passage through the lands of these manors to their granges in Nithsdale," (Dunscore?); but, on the accession of Bruce, Dalswinton was granted to Walter Stewart, third son of Sir John Stewart of Jedworth, and it remained in the possession of the Galloway family till 1680, when, with some specified exceptions, the barony of Dalswinton was disposed to the Duke of Queensberry. This estate became afterwards the property of the Maxwells, and about fifty years ago, it was sold by

them to the late enterprising Patrick Miller, Esq. who made many expensive improvements on it. This fine estate, which contains 5132 imperial acres, and is about a third part of the parish, is now the property of James Macalpine Leny, Esq. whose excellent qualities of character have raised him high in public esteem, and secured him the affection of all who have the honour of being acquainted with him. He has tastefully improved upon some of Mr Miller's arrangements,—rendered the approach to the mansion-house much more convenient,—and adorned its precincts with some exquisitely rich and beautiful decorations.

2. *Duncow* or *Duncol*, so called from the round hill or *doon* at the village, and signifying the same thing with cow or colhill. This barony also belonged once to the Cumins. It was forfeited (as well as Dalswinton) on the accession of Bruce, and was bestowed on Robert Boyd. In August 1550, Robert Lord Maxwell was returned to the 20 pound land of Dunkow, in right of his father, of the same name and title. From that time it remained in the possession of the Nithsdale family till about forty years ago, when it was sold to various purchasers, some of whom bought their own farms. So indulgent to their tenantry were the Maxwells of Nithsdale! It was in this village that King James V. spent the night, and where he left his attendants before he paid his angry visit to Sir John Charteris of Amisfield, as related by Grose. Until about thirty years ago, a large stone marked the site of the cottage where the king slept, near the small *doon* called the Chapel-hill.

3. *Milnhead* or *Millhead*. In May 1700, Bertha, spouse of Robert Brown of Bishopton, and heiress of Homer Maxwell of Kilbean, was returned as possessing certain lands, specified in the document, with the 4s. land of Milnhead. This estate was possessed by the family of Brown till, some twenty years ago, the late Miss Winefred Brown left it to Frederick Maxwell, Esq. and other heirs of entail. It contains 1061 acres, and is now in the possession of Henry Maxwell, Esq. one of these heirs, and third son of the late Marmaduke Constable Maxwell, Esq. of Nithsdale, who was one of the best of landlords, and whose sons, three of whom are extensive proprietors, inherit the liberal views of their father.

4. *Carnsalloch*, the "cairn of the willows," as some have supposed, or rather "the cairn of the shallow." In 1550, as appears from a return, August 5th of that year, it was in the possession of Robert Lord Maxwell. He gave it to Homer Maxwell, a younger son,

with Durrisquhin, (now Dalscone,) and a L. 5 property within the liberties of Dumfries, and the estate was possessed by the Maxwell family till it was sold to the late Alexander Johnston, Esq. about the year 1750. It is now in the possession of his son, the learned and accomplished Peter Johnston, Esq. who, at the very advanced age of about eighty years, enjoys entire the faculties of his vigorous and cultivated mind, and is the delight and the ornament of his social and domestic circle.

The Earl of Galloway had formerly a large property in this parish, and there is still a place distinguished by the name of "Garlies;" but the parish is now possessed by a great number of proprietors, of whose estates and families the limits prescribed to this survey preclude a particular description. The proprietors of Dalswinton, Carnsalloch, and Milnhead, possess nearly the half of the parish, the other part belongs to forty different land-owners.

*Eminent Men.*—Under this head the late Patrick Miller, Esq. of Dalswinton well deserves to be noticed. His ingenuity and perseverance in applying the wonderful power of steam to the purposes of navigation will transmit his name with honour to posterity. Patrick Miller, Esq. his eldest son, has published an elaborate "Narrative of Facts" on his claim to the invention and practice of steam navigation, to which the reader is referred for ample and satisfactory information upon this interesting subject. The present archdeacon of Calcutta, Daniel Corrie, belongs also to this parish, and received his education at the parochial school. His grandfather was tenant of Duncow mill, and his father was curate at Colsterworth in Lincolnshire. The late Luke Frazer, Esq. of Glenmaid, who was so long an able and zealous instructor of youth in the High School of Edinburgh, was born at Auchenrath. Mr Allan Cunningham, well known for his various literary publications, is a native of this parish. So also, I may add, is Mr Andrew Crichton, author of the *Life of Blackadder*, *History of Arabia*, &c. It may be noticed also, that Sir Andrew Halliday, physician, was in early life a candidate for our parish school at Duncow.

*Parochial Register.*—The earliest date of our parish register, containing baptisms, marriages, discipline, and division of poors' money, is 1725: it has been always kept with considerable care, except during the last incumbency. For a long time the dissenters declined to give their names to be inserted, though they had the offer of registration free of expense. Even now our registers are not entirely full.

*Antiquities.*—There are several *notes* in this parish, but they are of a circular and British, not of a square and Roman form. In the appendix of Dr Singer's Survey of the county, No. 18, there is notice taken of a Roman road, which is described as having passed through the northern part of this parish, and the remains of forts, barrows, and tumuli, are still to be recognized in several parts of it.—In a shoemaker's garden at Duncow an urn was lately dug up, with something in it like ashes, but it was broken by the spade.—In digging for a foundation to our new church, the workmen found a human skeleton lying in a different direction from that of other dead bodies in our burying-grounds, with its head towards the south, with an axe, very like a common one, and a lamina, apparently of iron or steel, like a sword-blade, deposited by its left side. The axe handle and the bones when touched crumbled into dust, being entirely rotten, and the axe's head, and the sword-like blade, were almost totally consumed with rust,—“*exesa rubigine scabra!*”

Mr Allan Cunningham, who spent his boyish days near the spot where it stood, remembers to have seen the ruins of Cumin's castle at Dalswinton. He says, in a letter to the writer, “when Comyn was slain in Dumfries” (when Bruce had given him the “perilous gash,” and Kirkpatrick “had makit sicker”) “Bruce, it is said, burnt his castle;” and adds, “that a part of the walls was standing in 1792.” They were, he says, 12, and, in one place, 14, feet thick, and “bits of burnt wood” were still clinging to them. He notices the old cow-house of Dalswinton as a great curiosity, and says, that he had seen it entire, with its “heavy stone vault,” its “outer door of wrought iron,” and “its inner door traced with broad iron bars, fastened with iron rivets.”—“Three distinct lines of entrenchment” were seen and carefully traced by Mr Cunningham and his intelligent father, encompassing “the summit of Moloch hill,” above Dalswinton village, when they were measuring the land with a chain. These lines were “composed of earth and stone, forming room for an army to encamp.” He also says, that below, “on the south side of the same hill,” there had been “defences of the same sort on a much smaller scale.”

“The Nith,” Mr Cunningham remarks, “instead of circling the *Scaur* of Ellisland, and running nigh the Isle, directed its course by Bankfoot, and came close to the castle;” and he remembers “a pool near the old house of Dalswinton called Comyn's pool, which

belonged to the old water course, and connected itself with the back water in the Willow isle, by the way of the Lady's meadow. Here Cumin is alleged to have sunk his treasure-chest before he went to Dumfries, leaving it in charge of the water sprite. A net, it is said, was fixed in this pool, to which a small bell in the castle was attached, which rang when a salmon was in the snare !” “ The golden pippins and honey pears” which were produced in the orchard, on or near the place once occupied by the notable pool, must not be entirely overlooked. The pippins grew on six remarkable trees : the pears on the same number of trees were no less remarkable, and the fruit, for flavour and sweetness, could not then be “ equalled in any other garden of the district.”

### III.—POPULATION.

The number of parishioners, as far back as the writer can trace it, has never been less than 1000.

In 1755, it was	-	-	-	-	-	1098
1821,	-	-	-	-	-	1608
1831,	-	-	-	-	-	1601
The number of males by the last census was	-	-	-	-	-	776
of females,	-	-	-	-	-	825

Upwards of forty persons, old and young, have emigrated to America within the last ten years. About 500 reside in villages, and about 1100 in the other parts of the parish.

1. Number of families in the parish,	-	-	-	-	388
of families chiefly employed in agriculture,	-	-	-	-	152
chiefly employed in trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	-	-	-	-	102
2. The average number of births yearly is about	-	-	-	-	50
of deaths,	-	-	-	-	30
of marriages,	-	-	-	-	20
3. The number of persons at present under 15 years of age,	-	-	-	-	600
upwards of 70,	-	-	-	-	10

There are 4 families who have comparatively large estates ; 10 or 12, or even more, who may be said to be “ of independent fortune.” Twenty-eight landed proprietors receive each L. 50 and upwards of annual rent.

*Character and Habits of the People.*—The people are generally disposed to cleanliness, with respect to dwelling, furniture, food, and clothing. They are neat in their dress, and especially in their Sunday attire. Their clean and comfortable appearance, as well as their devout and becoming deportment in the church on the Sabbath day, has often attracted the notice, and received the applause, of strangers. The ordinary food of the people consists of the different preparations of oatmeal, of potatoes, milk, and flesh

meat. Tradesmen, such as masons, joiners, blacksmiths, and tailors, when well employed, live and dress in a very comfortable way. Weavers of all kinds of home-made clothing, who were once a pretty numerous class here, but whose occupation is now almost gone, owing to the introduction of the power loom, have, at least many of them, been obliged to fall into the ranks of farm-labourers, thus diminishing the comforts of both classes. Our people are in general well-informed, sincerely religious, and morally correct. Few of them are ever guilty of gross offences against justice, charity, or temperance.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture and Rural Economy.*—This is properly an agricultural parish, and perhaps produces more food for man, according to its extent, than any other parish in the county. The lower part of it has been called “the *trough* of Nith” (which may be *freely* translated *corn-chest* or *granary*.) That river, as viewed from the heights above Dalswinton village, presents the form of an immense corn sickle, with the back of its crescent, or curve, turned to Cowhill, and with its handle stretching up towards Isle and Ellisland, and may suggest to the imagination of the classical spectator the rich harvests which are yearly reaped on its fertile banks. A thousand acres of arable land lie along the river, and about 10,000 acres of the parish are occasionally under the plough. This was the case, at least, not above five or six years ago; but some reckon that there are not many more than 8000 acres now of that description, the ground in some parts being considered as paying better in pasture than in tillage. About 500, or perhaps near 600, acres are in wood, and 400 of these are on the estate of Dalswinton. There are 4000 acres which have never been cultivated; of these, 200 at least might, by the judicious “application of capital, be added to the cultivated land of the parish.” On the remainder, nature seems to have pronounced her veto, and doomed it to continue under perpetual servitude in her own hand. A considerable portion of ground is occupied by single trees, and by trees standing together, to the number of two or three.

*Rent of Land.*—The average rent is 19s. per acre; the average rent of grazing is L. 3 per ox, if fed in winter with fodder; L. 5 per cow; 12s. per sheep, if winter fed; but a sheep may be pastured for 5s. per annum. The gross rental of the parish is from L. 9000 to L. 10,000 a year.

*Rate of Wages.*—A man-servant maintained in the family gets from L. 5 to L. 7 in the half year, and a female from L. 2 to L. 3, 3s. The farm-servant, called a *benefit* man, has a cottage and kitchen garden, a pint of skimmed milk per day, 30 cwt. of potatoes, also his fuel led home, and about L. 20 in money. When he maintains himself and his family, he receives from L. 22 to L. 25. A labourer, per day, receives from 1st March to 1st November, 1s. 6d., and for the remainder of the year, 1s. 3d., without victuals. Mowers, without victuals, receive per day from 2s. to 2s. 6d.; and with victuals, 1s. 6d. Joiners get in summer from 1s. 6d. to 2s. per day, and masons the same. Smiths generally contract with farmers at L. 2, 10s. per annum, to keep a plough and the iron work of a pair of horses in good order, finding the iron, as well as performing the work, but when there is no contract, each piece of work is charged separately.

*Breeds of Live Stock.*—The common breed of sheep is the Cheviot breed, crossed by Leicester rams. About 70 or 80 scores of lambs are annually raised on the hill grounds; and in most of the farms, the calves are sold to the fleshers of Dumfries when about six weeks old, at from 30s. to 40s. each, according to the quality of the veal. It is becoming a practice here to buy Highland draught ewes, and bring them to the lower grounds,—to take the lambs from the ewes, and send them to Liverpool, and to fatten the ewes for the same market.

*Husbandry.*—The alternate system of husbandry is prevalent with us; viz. oats from lea; fallows of potatoes and turnips, the latter fed off by sheep; wheat or barley, and sown down with grass seeds; one or more years lying in grass, as the subdivisions of the farm will permit. Some tenants prefer a crop of barley after wheat; but this is generally considered as bad management, and the practice is fast falling into disuse. The following order of husbandry has also been obligingly communicated to the writer, and is approved by very competent judges in our parish. For holm land, first year, oats; second year, part potatoes and part turnips, the turnips fed off by sheep; third year, wheat, sown down with grass seeds; fourth year, grass to be cut for hay. For hard land, the two first years, the same order as for holm land; the third year, barley, sown down with grass seeds; the fourth year, grass, part for cutting, and part for pasture. Irrigation is used only to a small extent, but surface draining is much practised, and is found very useful; but by sending off the water from the pastures, our rivulets are pro-



portionally swelled. The Nith sometimes threatens to break into our fine corn-fields, but they are well defended against "the horned flood" by strong and expensive embankments and fences of various forms and materials, constructed and executed with all the skill which science could furnish, and with every auxiliary of art.

The general duration of leases is fifteen years, but some farms are let for nineteen, and some for only seven years. Our proprietors appear to take delight in seeing the dwelling-houses on their respective properties neat and comfortable, and even elegantly commodious, and all their office-houses suitable and substantial. The principal improvements of a general nature are, the feeding of sheep with turnips, which is more practised now in this parish than it was in the whole county thirty years ago; thrashing-machines, introduced by the late Mr Miller of Dalswinton, (who also made us acquainted with the *ruta бага*); iron ploughs; and the use of bone manure. The most approved plans of husbandry have been eagerly adopted and ardently prosecuted by our agriculturists, who form a numerous and respectable body of the population. It would be difficult to do any thing like justice to those individuals who have reclaimed waste lands, and made the wilderness a corn or grass field, or a green wood; who have thus graced our hills and moors with indelible memorials of their industry and perseverance. The late Patrick Miller, Esq. of Dalswinton; the late William Allan, Esq. of Newlands; James Dinwiddie, Esq. of Whitehall; Joseph Bell, Esq. of Netherhall; Joseph Mitchell, Esq. of Whitestanes; John Morin, Esq. of Carzield, deserve to be particularly noticed. Under the animating auspices of our landlords, the parks and fields in the lower grounds have of late assumed an improved appearance, and cultivation has ascended our heights as far as she could urge her way. The moor-cock, with his frightened covey, fled at the startling sound of fervent industry, and, from his rocky retreats, crowed defiance to the tyrants that would encroach on his wild domain, or, in moody melody, deplored the abridgement of his ancient bounds!

*Produce.*—The average gross amount and value of raw produce yearly raised in the parish, as nearly as can be ascertained, is as follows:—

Grain of all kinds,	-	-	-	-	-	L. 13,500	0	0
Potatoes, turnips, &c. with the gross produce of green crop, hay								
pasture, and the stock fed thereon,	-	-	-	-	-	6,500	0	0
						<hr/>		
						L. 20,000	0	0

## V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Town.*—Dumfries is the nearest market-town, and is scarcely two miles distant from the south part of the parish. We have no post-offices; but a runner, or penny-post, to carry letters to and from the town might be useful. A spacious public road runs, almost six miles, in a longitudinal way through the parish. The bridges and fences are kept in good repair.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—It appears from ancient records, that “David II. granted to the monks of Arbroath the church of St Quintin of Kirkmahon, in the diocese of Glasgow.” This grant, however, seems never to have been effectual, at least as to the patronage, for that “continued to belong to the Stewarts,” who succeeded the Cumins in the barony “of Dalswinton. In 1429, the rectory of Kirkmahon was constituted one of the prebends of the bishoprick of Glasgow, with the consent, however, of Marion Stewart, the heiress of Dalswinton, and of Sir John Forrester, her second husband, and of William Stewart, her son and heir; she and her heirs continued to be patrons of this rectorial prebend.\* At the Reformation, the rectory of Kirkmahon was held by John Stewart, the second son of the patron, Sir Alexander Stewart of Garlies. In the seventeenth century, the patronage of Kirkmahon passed, with the barony of Dalswinton, from the Earl of Galloway to the Earl of Queensberry. It continued in the Queensberry family throughout the eighteenth century, and in 1810 passed to the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry.” †

The parish church was built twelve years ago, a little farther to the north than the old church, and stands exactly four miles distant from the cross of Dumfries. It is a comely Gothic structure, and, amidst the trees of the churchyard and vicinity, it makes a very graceful appearance. Its situation, however, is far from being convenient for a part of the population. It has no seats peculiarly appropriated to the poor.

The manse was built in 1799, and has had almost no repair hitherto. The glebe contains about eight acres of good land.

The stipend, by the last augmentation, commencing with crop and year 1825, is 16 chalders, half meal half barley, payable in money, according to the highest fiars prices of the county, yielding, upon an average of the last seven years, about L. 275; besides L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements.

\* See the original deed in Crawford's *Lives of the Officers of State*.

† *Caledonia*, Vol. iii. pp. 161, 162.

At Quarrelwood there is a dissenting meeting-house belonging to the Cameronian Presbyterians; but, for some years past, divine service has been seldom performed in it, as the hearers have a new chapel in Dumfries, where attendance is more convenient for them. There are 1600 parishioners in Kirkmahoe; and of these perhaps 20 are Cameronians,—20 or 30 more, perhaps, attend different meeting-houses in Dumfries; all the rest profess to attend the parish church, and are in that respect, on the whole, very exemplary. The writer records this circumstance with much and heartfelt satisfaction. The average number of communicants may be 600; and about 30 communicate for the first time at the celebration of the Lord's Supper every summer, on the first Sunday of July.

*Education.*—There are three schools in this parish, whose masters receive each a part of the parochial salary,—one at the village of Duncow, the master of which school receives an yearly salary of L. 25, 13s. 3d.; another in Dalswinton village, whose salary is L. 17; and there is a third school in a remote corner of the parish, to which is appropriated the yearly sum of L. 8, 0s. 6½d. Besides these there are two or three private schools. Two well-disposed females teach a few young girls to sew and to read. Latin and Greek, and the practical branches of mathematics, are occasionally taught in our schools. The total amount of school fees received at the three parochial schools is probably about L. 120. The accommodation of none of the public teachers is so comfortable as could be wished.

*Library.*—A parish library was opened in the school-house of Duncow, under the auspices of the present minister, on the 1st day of January 1800, and for some years the concern flourished; but by degrees it languished, and at last expired. Books were so numerous in private houses, and so easily to be gotten from the public libraries of Dumfries, that we allowed this parish light to go out.

The average number of poor on the session-roll is 28. It was 22 fifty years ago. L. 2, on an average, are given yearly to each pauper from the church collections; and L. 2, 10s. or more, when other sources are taken into the account. No other methods have yet been employed to provide for the poor, besides the collections and the interest of our mortified money, amounting to L. 500. Within these last few years, some poor persons have been heard saying, in a bold tone, that “the rich are obliged to maintain the

poor." If absent heritors do not contribute their parts in aiding the parish funds, and if voluntary contributions are not generally and liberally supported, some legal assessment, it is feared, must soon become more general.

*Alehouses.*—We have four alehouses, where spirits are sold. The half of the number would be sufficient; but it is right to admit, that the houses are kept in an orderly manner.

*Fuel.*—The fuel generally used is peat and coals; the latter are brought from the collieries at Sanquhar, Kirkconnel, and Mansfield, and also more frequently from the coal-vessels at Dumfries, which import them in large quantities from the coast of Cumberland.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

A very general change has taken place in the condition and aspect of this parish within these last forty years. Property has been much divided, and the purchasers of the divisions have been emulously diligent in improving them. New and neat villas have arisen on every side; polished farms and thriving plantations adorn the prospect; and the eye is delighted with the most tasteful forms of sylvan decoration, and with all the signs of a highly improved style of rural economy.

A survey was made by Mr Smeaton, as far back as 1754, for a canal to commence at the Frith of Solway, and to terminate at the lower end of this parish; and a railway was projected by an able engineer, to stretch from Sanquhar to the middle, at least, of Kirkmahoe. These and such like plans, if executed, no doubt would be attended with great advantage not only to this, but also to the neighbouring parishes. A distillery on a judicious and moderate scale has lately been erected at Glencarrick in this parish, above Duncow, and near Whitehall, on the banks of the romantic rivulet, already noticed as remarkable for its rocky recesses and tiny Niagaras, and is in full and prosperous operation. It furnishes a convenient market for our farm produce and that of the neighbourhood, and also generates a very nutritive and agreeable kind of food for fattening cattle.

*January 1834.*

# PARISH OF KIRKMICHAEL.

PRESBYTERY OF LOCHMABEN, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.

THE REV. JAMES SMAIL, MINISTER.

THE REV. H. DOBIE, ASSISTANT. \*

---

## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name and Boundaries.*—THE parish, known by the above title, consists of the original cure of Kirkmichael, and the greater part of the old parish of Garrel, † which were united about 1674. The derivation of the name Kirkmichael is evidently from St Michael, to whom the church was dedicated. Garrel is a vulgar abbreviation of Garvald or Garwald, signifying in the Scoto-Irish, the *rough rivulet*; an appellation which is very frequent in the North British topography, and which here applies to the rivulet that runs in a very stony channel past the old church.

The united parish is elliptical in form, and extends 9 miles in length, and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  in extreme breadth. It is bounded on the north by Kirkpatrick-Juxta; on the north-east and east by Johnstone; on the south by Lochmaben and Tinwald; and on the west by Kirkmahoe and Closeburn.

*Topographical Appearances.*—There are two ranges of mountains in this parish, stretching nearly north and south, the one situate between the small river Ae and Glenkiln-burn, and the other between Glenkiln-burn and the lower grounds. The hill of Holehouse, on the northern part of the first range, is about 1500 feet above the level of the sea; Woodhill, on the south, about 1250; Knock-craig, at the head of the second range, about 1400; and

\* This account has been drawn up by Mr Dobie, Assistant Minister.

† The lands of Raehills, the elegant seat of J. J. Hope Johnstone, Esq. M. P., the two Minnygaps, Mollins, Crunzie-town, and Hartfield, now annexed to the parish of Johnstone, formerly belonged to Garrel.—See Act. Parl. vii. 644, A. D. 1669, entitled, “Ratification in favour of Sir John Dalziel of Glenae, and Robert, his son, of all and hail the lands of Raehills, and others therein mentioned, lying within the parochia of Garrel.”

Kirkmichael-fell, at the other extremity, about 1100 feet. The southern part of the parish is, in general, level; though there are several rising grounds interspersed, which descend, by a gradual declivity, towards the farm of Cumrue, at the southern extremity, about 190 feet above the level of the sea.

*Climate.*—The quality of the soil of this parish,—the contiguity of the mountains before-mentioned,—and the rivers and burns by which it is bounded and intersected,—render the air in general rather moist. But from the rapidity of the waters, in consequence of the very considerable declivity of the ground, the air is frequently changed, and not permitted to stagnate. The inhabitants are in general remarkably healthy. When a severe epidemic disease prevailed last season to a fearful extent in Dumfries, which is only eight miles distant, there was not a single instance of infection in the whole of this parish.

*Hydrography.*—There are several veins of ironstone and ochre in the parish, and consequently many springs of chalybeate water; but none of a strength so remarkable as to deserve particular notice. There are two lochs or lakes, the one on the summit of the first mountain range, called Crane Loch,—one acre in extent, and very deep; the other, called Cumrue Loch, on the farm of that name,—four acres in extent, and fourteen feet in depth. This loch formerly comprehended ten or twelve acres, but has been reduced by draining to its present size. There are two or three small cascades in Garrel Water, the largest of which is eighteen feet in height.

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—The general direction of the strata of the transition rocks, which compose the high ranges of this parish, is from north-east to south-west; and their angle of north-westerly dip with the horizon may be stated at from 45 to 60 degrees. About half a mile from the manse is a rock of alum-slate, having interspersed through it iron pyrites. The lower part of this parish is of sandstone formation, incumbent on the cropping of the basaltic rocks, and ranging, near their junction, almost parallel. Its strata there dip towards the south-east, having a very considerable inclination. Two miles south of this, at Ross, where it is wrought, this rock dips about one in three south-westward, the beds stretching from south-east towards north-west. The colour is red. The several holms on the banks of the different streams appear to have been formed by deposits washed down, in the course of ages, from the higher grounds.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Land-owners.*—The land-owners are his Grace the Duke of Buccleuch; John S. Lyon, Esq. of Kirkmichael; James S. Wightman, Esq. of Courance; Robert Kennedy, Esq. of Craigshiels; John Swan, Esq. of Glenkilm; William Robson, Esq. of Hazliebrae; Patrick Campbell, Esq. of Lawers; and Henry Constable Maxwell, Esq. of Milnhead. The Duke of Buccleuch draws L. 150 per annum above the half of the present rental. Mr Lyon's estate is next in extent and value. The others are stated above in the order which corresponds to the valued rent of their properties.

*Parochial Registers.*—No parochial registers appear to have been kept prior to the year 1727; and those from 1727 to 1759 are very imperfect. Since the latter period they have been better attended to, but are confined entirely to births.

*Antiquities.*—On a bank, which is washed by the rivulet of Garrel, may be seen the ruins of the church bearing that name, with its accompanying cemetery. Garvald was rebuilt in 1617; but, from the time of its annexation to Kirkmichael, has been allowed to fall into decay. The church-yard, however, is surrounded by a stone and lime wall, with a plantation of weeping-birches, and other trees suited to the place.

The only Roman work in the parish is a branch of the great road, that led from Netherby, in Cumberland, to the chain of forts, built by Lollius Urbicus, between the Forth and the Clyde. This can still be traced through a moss, and seems to have terminated at a castellum, of which two sides still remain very distinct, and which now forms the minister's garden.

On the farm of Wood is the ruin of the old tower of Glenae, which, in 1666, gave the title of Baronet to a branch of the family of Dalzell, before its succession to the earldom of Carnwath.

There are several indistinct remains of ancient fortifications; but no traditions about any of them, except a small fort, commonly called Wallace's Tower, adjoining Tor-linn, a glen filled with natural oak, and stretching westward from Knockwood. This fort commands an extensive view to the south, occupying the summit of an angle formed by the junction of two branches of that steep ravine; and being protected on its third side by a large fosse, it must have been in former times, before the general use of fire-arms, a strong place of defence. Sir William Wallace, while meditating the capture of the castle of Lochmaben in 1297, is said to have kept sixteen men there, with whom he sallied forth to annoy the English

garrison under Greystock and Sir Hugh of Moreland. Having taken some of their horses, the Scottish hero was pursued to Tor-head, (a name descriptive of the situation, the Celtic *Tor* signifying mount,) by Moreland, who, in the encounter which ensued, was slain, with several of his followers. A large stone, named "sax corses," *i. e.* six corpses, a short way distant, marks the burial place of the vanquished. Greystock, enraged at this defeat, and strengthened by fresh supplies from England, immediately proceeded to attack Wallace with 300 men. Thus overpowered by numbers, he fell back among the hills; and being joined by Sir John Graham of Dundaff with thirty men, and Kirkpatrick, his kinsman, with twenty of his retainers, was overtaken on the north border of the lands of Holehouse, near the bottom of Queensberry, where a general engagement took place. Greystock fell; the victory was complete; and the survivors seeking shelter in the wood from which they had pursued the Scots, Wallace reached Lochmaben before them, and took possession of the castle. A cairn, as was then usual, has been raised on the field of battle, where may be seen the long flat stones, set on edge in the form of graves, believed to surround the remains of the dead. A stream runs from the place, called "Discomfit Gutter." A moss brow, bearing the name of "Graham's hag," is at a short distance; as is likewise "Bledy-gill," evidently a corruption of Bloody-gill.

About the year 1785, there was found, in a small piece of peat-moss near the line of the old Roman road, a pretty large pot, of a sort of base copper, and a decanter of the same metal, of the shape and size of our white stone quart decanters, with 3 feet about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch long. They were both sent by Dr Burgess, then minister of the parish, to the Society of Antiquarians at Edinburgh, and are in their museum. They were thought to be Roman. They might have been thrown into the place where they were found when the Romans left the castellum, perhaps pursued by the natives, and obliged to abandon their heavy luggage to expedite their flight.

Last summer, another antique of similar metal, capable of containing 13 imperial gills, with 3 feet  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length, and altogether 10 inches in height, having a handle and spout, and somewhat resembling in shape a modern coffee-pot, was dug up in a place called Car's moss, near the mains of Ross. In that moss are the vestiges of a small British station, from which it probably takes the ancient British or Celtic etymon of Car or Caer,



meaning *fort*. Not far from the same spot was found, several years ago, a large round leaden dish, which contained two pieces of iron, much corroded, resembling a mason's trowel and tool. This led to the supposition that it had been used for holding mortar. A hole was pierced on each side, to which a handle might have been fastened.

A number of small silver coins of Alexander III, of Scotland, and Edward I. of England, were discovered upon the 10th November 1821, in a piece of soft ground, about half way between Nether-Garrel and Courance. A year or two afterwards, nearly a quarter of a mile from the same place, was found a small silver coin of James I. of Scotland. Several of these coins, and the brazen decanter found lately, as described above, are in possession of one of the heritors.

Many of the ancient circular British encampments appear in the parish. Upon some of these being opened, ashes have been found; likewise several broken querns, or hand-mills, formerly used for grinding corn; and in one of them, upon the farm of Gilrig, with a partition crossing it, and which seems to have been occupied during later times, there was dug out a sword having a basket-hilt, but so much covered with rust, that it was impossible to form any accurate opinion respecting its antiquity. There was also seen a number of pipes of burnt clay, with heads somewhat smaller than that of the tobacco-pipe now in use, swelled at the middle, and straiter at the top.

*Modern Buildings.*—A very handsome and elegant mansion-house has been erected by Mr Lyon, on his estate of Kirkmichael, and is just finished. It is built in the old manorial style, after a plan made by Mr Burn of Edinburgh. It is surrounded by a very considerable extent of fine old timber, and the pleasure-grounds are embellished by beautiful flower-gardens, and two fine artificial pieces of water. Mr Lyon has also made a very excellent walled garden and hot-house.

There are two mills in the parish; one, upon the barony of Ross, for oats, wheat, and barley; and another, upon the estate of Kirkmichael, adapted merely for oats and barley.

### III.—POPULATION.

The amount of the population of the parish cannot be traced any farther back than 1759. At that time, the number of inhabitants was 730: in 1791, it was 950. The increase was supposed

to be owing to the division and cultivation of a very large common, and the improvement of other lands. In 1801, the population was reduced to 904. The decrease was probably occasioned by a practice, then becoming prevalent, of *leading* farms, as it was called; that is, a farmer having one farm, possessed, at the same time, another, which was said to be *led* along with it. By this means, several farms, formerly having numerous families residing on them, were, when thus *led* along with others, left almost uninhabited. At each census, since that period, there has been a gradual increase, which would perhaps have been much greater, had it not been for the change which has taken place by the enlargement of many of the farms. In 1831 the population was 1226.

1. Number of families in the parish,	-	-	-	-	218
of families chiefly employed in agriculture,	-	-	-	-	126
chiefly employed in trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	-	-	-	-	44
2. Number of unmarried men, bachelors or widowers, upwards of 50 years of age,	-	-	-	-	12
of unmarried women, including widows, upwards of 45,	-	-	-	-	31
3. The average number of births yearly, for the last 7 years,	-	-	-	-	36
of deaths,	-	-	-	-	21
of marriages,	-	-	-	-	8
4. The number of persons at present under 15 years of age,	-	-	-	-	478
upwards of 70,	-	-	-	-	40

Three of the proprietors already named are resident, as also two smaller ones, who possess L. 10 tenements, without being liable for parochial burdens.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture and Rural Economy*—The whole of the parish has been surveyed, and plans made of the several farms, at different times, and by different land-measurers. The number of acres standard and imperial measure is as follows.

Meadow and arable land,	-	-	-	-	6700 Acres.
Sheep pasture,	-	-	-	-	9190
Mossy pasture interspersed through the arable lands, partly convertible into meadow, and including the mosses from which the inhabitants are supplied with peat,	-	-	-	-	550
Sand-bed pasture, comprehending roads, lakes, and water-courses,	-	-	-	-	280
Under wood, natural or planted,	-	-	-	-	350
					<hr/> 17070

Probably 300 or 400 acres of this hill land might be advantageously broken up, fallowed, and thereafter sown down with grass seeds, to improve the pasture.

The natural woods consist principally of oak, ash, birch, and elder. The young plantations are composed of Scotch, larch, and spruce firs, with a sufficiency of oak, ash, and elm, for standards.

*Rent of Land.*—The average rent per acre of meadow and arable land is 14s. 6d.; of sheep pasture, 3s.; of mossy pasture interspersed through the arable lands, partly convertible into meadow, and including the mosses from which the inhabitants are supplied with peat, \* 4s.; of sand-bed pasture which, after deducting 130 acres for roads; lakes, and water-courses, will be reduced to 150 acres, L. 1.

The average rent of grazing cattle is at the rate of 25s. for a one year old; 35s. for a two years old; and L. 4 for a cow or full-grown ox; and at the rate of 4s. 9d. for a ewe, or full-grown sheep, pastured for the year.

*Breeds of Live Stock.*—The cattle are all of the Galloway breed. Turnips are cultivated to such an extent, that 2200 Cheviot and Highland wedders, inclusive of several score of half-bred hogs, are annually fattened upon them.

*Husbandry.*—The system of husbandry pursued is, in some cases, a six, and in others a four years' rotation. Since 1822, when the old leases terminated, very great, judicious, and expensive improvements have been made by the Duke of Buccleuch, on his beautiful and valuable barony of Ross, in this parish, by building very excellent and even elegant farm-steadings, containing every accommodation of the most convenient and substantial kind that a farmer can desire; planting both for shelter and ornament; enclosing, partly with stone dikes, but principally with hedges; making roads, and giving every encouragement to promote and extend the cultivation of the land. There is no part of the country, through which a traveller can pass, where he will be more delighted with a view of the rapid progress of very spirited and substantial improvements. Such are the invaluable advantages which a district derives from being blessed with a liberal and patriotic landlord.

The duration of leases is, in some cases, 15, in others 19 years. The greater part of the farm-buildings on the other properties in the parish is new and of a superior description. The hedges that have lately been planted are very extensive; and are all in a thriving state, being well attended to.

\* Much mossy land has already been reclaimed, and now yields good crops of hay.

*Produce.*—The average gross annual amount of raw produce, raised in the parish, may be thus estimated.

Wheat, -	390 imp. acres at L. 6, 8s. per acre, exclusive of seed,	L. 1920	0	0
Barley, -	350 do. 4 10 do. do.	1575	0	0
Oats, -	1350 do. 3 4 do. do.	4320	0	0
Potatoes, -	400 do. 6 8 do. do.	2560	0	0
Turnips, -	600 do. 2 10 do. do.	1500	0	0
Rye-grass hay, 1000	do, 2 6 do. do.	2300	0	0
Meadow hay, 700	do. 1 14 do. do.	1190	0	0

*Cattle Grazed.*—

Cows, (including the product by calves until weaned,) 460				
at L. 4, - - - - -		L. 1840	0	0
One year old cattle or stirks, 460 at L. 1, 5s. - - -		575	0	0
Two year old cattle, 580 at L. 1, 15s. - - -		1015	0	0
		L. 3430	0	0
About 150 three years' old cattle are kept for wintering, but do not require to be taken into account in the consumption of grass, as they are sent south in spring, part of them in a lean state, and part fattened for the market.				
Sheep, 5720 at 7s., - - - - -			2002	0
Gardens and orchards, - - - - -			100	0
The greater proportion of woodland consists of plantations under ten years' growth; but the periodical felling of the natural and full-grown wood taken yearly, is - - - - -			100	0
			L. 20997	0

*Rate of Wages.*—Men employed in husbandry labour receive 1s. 6d. per day in summer and 1s. 3d. in winter, and women 9d. per day, without victuals. Men-servants, who are fit for every kind of husbandry work, and are boarded in the house, receive, on an average L. 5 in the half year, and women-servants from L. 2, 10s. to L. 3. Masons and joiners generally charge 2s. 6d. per day.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Towns, &c.*—There are no towns or villages in the parish. Lockerby is distant from Cumrue five miles to the south-east; but Dumfries, which is fully seven miles from the bridge of Ae southward, is the market-town most frequented. The length of turnpike road, crossing the parish, is nearly five miles. The mail-coach from Edinburgh to Dumfries travels along it twice daily.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The patronage of the old parish of Kirk-michael has belonged to the noble house of Queensberry since the Reformation, and is now held by the Duke of Buccleuch. There belonged to this church, during the reign of Catholicism,

three merk lands of the old extent, now the property of Mr Lyon. Garvald was of old a mensal church of the bishops of Glasgow; and Robert Blackadder, the first archbishop of that see, in 1506, assigned this rectory to the college of Glasgow. The patronage thereof at the Reformation belonged to the convent of Red Friars at Failfurd, in the county of Ayr; was thereafter vested in the Crown; and, so far as is known, remains so, although it has not for a long period been exercised by the king. The church lands of Garrel, extending to five pound lands of the ancient valuation, in 1565, exclusive of the glebe united by excambion to that of Kirkmichael, passed from that convent into lay lands, and are now mostly comprehended within the barony of Röss.

The present parish church is near the south-western boundary; a situation not at all convenient for the greater part of the population, being fully five miles from the opposite side and southern extremity. It was built in 1815, and is in good repair. It contains sittings for upwards of 500. The manse was built in 1798, and has since that time undergone several repairs. The glebe is about 18 imperial acres in extent, and may be valued at L. 18 a-year. The stipend is 15 chalders, half meal, and half barley, and L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements, amounting, at the county fiars' price of the seven years preceding the augmentation 5th December 1821, to L. 232, 0s.  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. There being no place of worship in the parish but the Established church, it is attended by all the inhabitants, except about 30, who are dissenters. Divine service is generally well attended. The average number of communicants is 330.

*Education.*—There are two schools in the parish, the principal one being placed near the centre of the greatest population. The branches of instruction generally taught are English, writing, arithmetic, Latin, Greek, and geometry. The salary of this school is the maximum, viz. L. 34, 4s.  $4\frac{1}{2}$ d., and the fees amount to about L. 16 per annum. The teacher has considerably more than the legal accommodations with respect to a dwelling-house and garden. No salary is attached to the side-school. The master of it is paid entirely by fees received from the scholars, which are the same as those of the parochial school.

The people are in general alive to the benefits of education. There are none above fifteen years of age (idiots excepted) who cannot read. Two sheep-farms on the north-western side of the parish are about six miles distant from these schools. But the po-

pulation in that quarter is small, and there is access to a side-school in the neighbouring parish of Closeburn.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid is 20, and the average sum allotted to each per year is L. 1, 4s. There are no legacies or mortifications. The annual amount of church collections, with small fines exacted from delinquents, and other dues, is about L. 35, 3s. 10½d. Several persons, not on the poors' roll, obtain occasional relief. It is still with reluctance that the necessitous are induced to apply for parochial assistance. But it is easy to perceive that the spirit of independence by which the lower classes in this country have been so long distinguished, is here, as in other places, exhibiting symptoms of decay.

It may be remarked, in concluding, that the rental of the parish, when the former Statistical Account was drawn up, was L. 2500, and that at present it amounts to L. 6475 per annum.

*January 1834.*

# PARISH OF CLOSEBURN.

PRESBYTERY OF PENPONT, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.

THE REV. ANDREW BENNET, MINISTER.

---

## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name, Boundaries, &c.*—CLOSEBURN, to which the extensive parish of Dalgarno was united in the end of the seventeenth century, was anciently called Kilosbern, from *Cella Osburni*. It is 10 miles in extreme length, and  $7\frac{1}{2}$  in extreme breadth. It is bounded on the north by Morton and Crawford, on the east by Kirk-michael and Kirkpatrick-Juxta, on the south by Kirkmahoe, and on the west by Keir, from which it is separated by the river Nith. From the great quantity of secondary sandstone strata, and water-worn gravel, to the depth in many parts of nearly 20 feet, the valley of Closeburn, comprehending, besides the western part of this parish, portions of other parishes, has in all probability been a lake, the water issuing from its lower level, or south extremity, having in the course of time worn away the restraining barrier. In confirmation of this opinion I may mention, that the rising grounds at the south end of the valley are separated from each other by the channel of the Nith. What must have been the bottom of the lake is a fine alluvial or *carse* soil. The higher level of the parish, before the ascent of the transition hills, is in general water-worn gravel upon freestone.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The valley of Closeburn is one of the valleys situated in the mountain range, chiefly of transition rock, which runs across the island from the German to the Atlantic Ocean. The highest hill in the parish is Queensberry, the summit of which is 2140 feet above the sea. It was called Queensberry, not, as has been supposed, from a species of berry which grows upon it, but from the Anglo-Saxon, *berg*, a hill, which is often formed into berry. It is most appropriately designated the queen of hills, being one of the highest in the south of Scotland.

*Climate.*—It might be supposed that the proximity of this dis-

tract to the Atlantic Ocean, and the prevalence of the south and south-west winds, would render the climate rainy and variable. Although it be not so dry as some districts of Scotland, the copious exhalations from this vast reservoir of water are in some measure intercepted, and the violence of these winds moderated by the interposition of Galloway and the north of Ireland. For mildness of climate, its situation is peculiarly favourable. Besides having a southern aspect, the ranges of hills that environ it on the north and east afford shelter from those cold and piercing winds that predominate in spring, and annoy other parts of the kingdom. The salubrity of the climate may, to a certain extent, be ascribed to the improved system of agriculture and draining introduced a considerable number of years ago. From that cause intermittent fevers have now entirely disappeared. As a proof of the salubrity of the climate I may mention, that of 28 individuals who died in 1831, 20 had attained to upwards of 70 years of age. Pulmonary complaints, however, are not uncommon in this district; and cases of inflammation occasionally occur.

*Hydrography.*—The water is in general extremely pure, as it flows from springs running through freestone, limestone, and transition rock. The only foreign ingredient some of the springs contain, is a little iron in solution by carbonic acid. In the immediate vicinity of Closeburn Castle, a spring issuing from a peat-moss is impregnated with a small quantity of sulphuretted hydrogen, and has been of signal advantage in cutaneous complaints. The river Nith forms the western boundary; and the Cample forms the northern boundary of the parish. There are several streams, the most remarkable of which is Crickup. By falling over a precipice 90 feet in height, it forms a cascade, known by the name of *Grey's mare's tail*. After heavy rains, it has the appearance of an unbroken sheet of water, and is seen at the distance of many miles. This stream, possessing some romantic scenery, is visited by strangers. The place of the greatest interest is Crickup Linn. The water in its passage over a hill of old red sandstone has in the course of ages cut a deep ravine, so narrow at the top, that in many places one may leap across it. The sides of this ravine, overhung by rich foliage, and presenting rocks of the most picturesque forms, the noise and agitation of the water underneath, produce a singularly imposing effect. To this spot covenanters in the times of persecution betook themselves for safety. The author of *Waverley* has given it additional interest, by describing it as a



similar scene to the retreat of Balfour of Burleigh, in Lanarkshire.

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—The strata in the parish of Closeburn, forming a part of a considerable basin of strata ten miles in length, and nearly four in breadth, arise in a south-eastern direction, and dip to the north-west and west. The prevailing rocks are transition rock or greywacke, transition limestone, a coarse gray quartz freestone and old red sandstone, of which the mountains, hills, and plains are composed. The red sandstone is the uppermost stratum in the low parts of the valley, and is nearly three miles in width from the river Nith, in an eastern direction. From under the red sandstone the gray freestone rises nearly a mile in width in the same direction; in some places the transition limestone; and last of all, the transition rocks, upon which the foregoing strata are deposited, rise to the height of 1200 feet above the sea. The only genera and species of organic remains are in the transition limestone; they consist of *cornua ammonis*, *belemnites*, and *orthoceratites*, and are the largest found in the island.

The limestone quarry worked in the parish, chiefly for agricultural purposes, consists of two beds. The upper bed is 16 feet thick, and is composed of 40 parts of magnesian limestone, and 60 parts of carbonate of lime, and contains no organic remains. The lower bed is 18 feet thick, and contains 88 parts of carbonate of lime, 8 of clay and sand, and 4 of iron. It is therefore peculiarly well adapted for building, as it takes a strong band, and hardens under water. This lower bed consists of a number of lamina, divided by horizontal fissures, between several of which a kind of stone marl is interposed, having impressions of shells, apparently dissolved. This stone-marl consists of about 10 parts of carbonate of lime, and has been successfully employed as a top dressing upon the light sandy soils in the neighbourhood. None of the upper bed or magnesian limestone is worked, as it is a long time before it loses its caustic qualities, by the absorption of carbonic acid. It is found to heave or loosen the soil when used for the growth of corn, and to produce an abundant crop of day nettle, (*Lamium album*.) These two beds are separated from each other by about 18 feet of bastard or impure limestone, and indurated clay employed for making bricks, after undergoing the operation of bruising, by passing between cast iron rollers. The alluvial deposits are sand from the debris of the old red sandstone, and quartz free-stone and gravel, consisting of water-worn greywacke and basalt,

brought down from the upper part of the river Nith. Large blocks of granite have been found, although there are no granite mountains within twenty miles.

The soil near the Nith, or lowest extremity of the parish, is sandy loam: upon a higher level it is a sandy gravel, to the depth of upwards of 20 feet, and is well suited for barley and turnip. Above the greywacke it is more tenacious and less sandy, but equally well suited for the same crops. On this soil, composed of the *debris* of the greywacke, the larch tree arrives at greater perfection than the Scotch fir, which prefers a more sandy soil; but upon the red sandstone soil or sandy gravel the larch is liable to decay in the heart, and becomes covered with white moss after it is planted only a very few years. On the transition rock it is healthy and vigorous, and evinces no such symptoms of premature disease. The writer is assured by Mr Menteach of Closeburn, that the larch tree is found to grow indigenously in Switzerland, but never upon the secondary strata.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Of the early history of the parish little is known. Of itself the parish of Closeburn seems originally to have been of small extent, while that of Dalgarno comprehended a very considerable territory. The former belonged to the abbey of Holyroodhouse, and the latter to the abbey of Kelso, and formed part of the patrimony and spirituality of these establishments. At the period of the Reformation in Scotland, each parish was provided with a *reader*, and in 1576, we find from the register of assignation and modification of ministers' stipends, a *minister* for the first time established at Closeburn.\*

The patronage of both churches, as well as most of the territory of these parishes, belonged for a very considerable period to the family of Kirkpatrick of Closeburn; although by a ratification in Parliament 1594, King James VI confirmed a charter granted by him under the great seal to Sir James Douglas of Drumlangrig, Knight, dated in January 1591, "of the advocacy and donation

\* The following are the words of the register:—"Closberne.—Mr James Ramsay minister, his stipend, L. 75, 2s. 5d. to be payit out of the third of the personage of Kirkmado, &c.

"John Thomsoune, reidare at Closberne, his stipend, L. 20, with the kirk land, to be payit out of the third of Kelso, &c.

"Dalgarno.—James Williamsoun, reidar at Dalgarno, his stipend xvjlib. with the kirk land," &c.

of the paroch kirks and parochins of Kirkbryd, Durisdeir, Glencairn, Penpont, Mortoun, and *Dalgarnok*;" but the grant was thus qualified: "Provyding alwayes that the said Sir James sall resigne and renunce the advocatioun and donatioun of the said paroch kirk of Dalgarnok, to Thomas Kirkpatrik of Cloisburne, his aris and assignayes," \* &c.

In the year 1606, these churches were united by the General Assembly held at Linlithgow.† They continued so till the year 1648, when the Presbytery of Penpont, after examining the rentals of both parishes, which were produced to them, and after hearing the "information anent the condition of the united kirkis of Dalgarno and Closeburn, wherther is two standing kirkis, with ther several manses and gleebs," ‡ recommended them to be disjoined

\* Acts of the Parliaments of Scotland, iv. 90.

† On this subject we find in the register quoted above the following entries:—  
"1608. Dalgarno Cloisburne, Mr David Rodger, minister, his stipend, iijj. xx lib. money, to be payit out of the lordship of Kelso, or ony part therof, be the Lord of Kelso, his airis and successouris, &c. and mair viij xx, xvij lib. xvij s. for the service at the kirk of Dalgarno, be Sir Thomas Kirkpatrik of Cloisburne, Knicht, takisman of Dalgarno.

"1615. Cloisburne and Dalgarno, Alexander Flemyng, minister, his stipend, iijj xx lib. money, to be payit out of the lordship of Kelso, or onie part therof, be the Lord of Kelso, his airis and successouris, &c. and viij xx, xvij lib. xvij s. for the service at the kirk of Dalgarno, be Sir Thomas Kirkpatrik of Cloisburne, Knicht, takisman of Dalgarno, with xxxij lib. out of the prebendaries of Lincluden, to be payit be the takisman and parochinaris of Carlaverock."

‡ From this information the following is an extract:—"Dalgarno is a pendicle of Halyroodhouse. The teinds whereof (the minister being payed) did belong to the Bishop of Edinburch; bot efter abolitioun of episcopacie wer disponed for mantainans of the Castle of Edinburch. The worth of the lands of this parochin, in stok and teind personage and vicarage, is about 9000 merkis."

"Closeburne is a pendicle of Kelso, the teinds whereof wer a part of the rent of the Bishop of Galloway's, bot Episcopacie being now abolished, is assigned to the Colledge of Glasgow. The worth of this parochin, stock and teind personage and vicarage, is about 3000 merkis."—"Inde 12000 merkis."—"The two parochins upon the supplication of the heritors to the Assemblie at Linlithgow, in anno 1606, wer judged fit to be one congregatioun, and the union ratified by Parliament."

The following, among other reasons, are given by the Presbytery for the division of these kirks: "1. That the said two kirks wer united in the dayes of corruption and Episcopacie, to the great detriment and hurt of the church. 2. That the two kirks being in rent of stock and teind seventein thousand merks and upward, may verie convenientlie afford maintainance to two ministers for serving the cure at the saids kirks. 3. The number of communicants being seven hundreth or thereabout, may be two flocks, sufficient for two ministers. 4. That the heritors being cited to compeir befor the Presbytrie, most part of them compeired, and could not object any relevant reason, (in our judgment,) quherfor they might not be disjoined. 5. That the fabrickes of both churches are now in a gud frame, quhilk will not long continue if they should remaine in the present condition," &c.

forthwith. The parishes continued disunited until the year 1697, when Dalgarno was again annexed to Closeburn.

*Accounts of the Parish.*—There is a history in manuscript of each parish in the presbytery of Penpont, drawn up, above a century ago, by a Mr Rae, minister of Kirkconnel. He has unfortunately done little more than commence that of Closeburn.

*Eminent Men, &c.*—Among the *literati* to whom this parish has given birth is the venerable Dr Hunter of St Andrew's, unquestionably the first philologist of the age:

Few parishes in proportion to their population have furnished a larger number of successful candidates for the ministry, there being at present no less than nine parochial clergymen of our national church to whom this parish has given birth.

*Land-owners.*—The chief land-owner is Mr Stuart Menteach, the male representative of the ancient Earls of Menteach. The estate of Closeburn after having been for several centuries in the possession of the family of Kirkpatrick, \* well known in history, was purchased by the present family, at the termination of the American war, when agricultural improvements may be said to have commenced in this part of the country.

*Parochial Registers.*—The date of the earliest entry of the parochial registers is 1726. From 1754 to 1777, there appears to have been no register at all. This omission has been in some measure supplied by a register of baptisms, from 1765 to 1776, kept by an individual who was church officer, during that period, for his own use. This little volume is now in the possession of the kirk-session, and in some important cases has furnished the information required. At present, the parochial registers are regularly kept. There is also an obituary, with a corresponding register of every disease that proves fatal.

*Antiquities.*—Closeburn Castle is a vaulted quadrilateral tower about 50 feet high, 33½ long, and 45½ broad. There is a ground floor, the walls of which are 12 feet thick, and three series of apartments, all separated from each other by arched roofs. An arched roof crowns the whole. As it bears no date or inscription, its age cannot be correctly ascertained. From the plan of the building, and the style of the mouldings of the doors, it cannot be less than 800 years old. It is at present occupied by Mr Menteach's land-steward, and is a very comfortable residence.—A few years ago

\* For an account of this ancient family, see parish of Keir.

were to be seen the ruins of a chapel, dedicated to St Patrick, which gives the name of Kirkpatrick to the farm on which it stood.—On another farm there are the remains of a vaulted building.—There are several large cairns, but no account of any of them is transmitted to the present times.—Six years ago an urn of coarse earthen-ware, about one foot in depth, and nine inches in width, filled with human bones, considerably decayed, was found in a piece of garden ground belonging to the free school. Beside this urn was a smaller one empty, and capable of containing about a quart. It was raised nearly entire, but the other, in an attempt to raise it, fell to pieces. If they be of Roman manufacture, which is very probable, they must have been under ground above 1400 years. Both of these relicts were deposited in the museum of the antiquaries of Scotland. It may be added, that at a small distance from these urns, two other deposits of human bones were soon after found in a very decayed state.

*Modern Buildings.*—The only modern building is Closeburn Hall, the seat of Mr Stuart Menteth. It is a large building of Grecian architecture, and situated in one of the most beautiful valleys in the south of Scotland.

### III.—POPULATION.

One of the reasons in the recommendation of the Presbytery of Penpont for the disjunction of the parishes of Closeburn and Dalgarno was, that “the number of communicants being 700 or thereabout, may be two flocks sufficient for two ministers.” I mention this circumstance, as showing that the united parishes were at least as populous then as at present.

In 1755, the population was	999
In 1791, - - -	1490
In 1811, - - -	1762
In 1821, - - -	1682
In 1831, - - -	1680

The progressive increase was occasioned partly by extensive lime-works which commenced in 1772, and partly by the improvements of the present proprietor: and the decrease, by these improvements having been in a great measure completed, which circumstance rendered it necessary for many day-labourers to go elsewhere for employment. The number of the population residing in villages is 628, and in the country 1052.

1. Number of families in the parish,	-	-	-	-	387
of families chiefly employed in agriculture,	-	-	-	-	89
chiefly employed in trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	-	-	-	-	48
2. Number of unmarried men, bachelors or widowers, upwards of 50 years of age,	-	-	-	-	20
of unmarried women, including widows, upwards of 45,	-	-	-	-	43
3. The number of persons at present under 15 years of age,	-	-	-	-	631
upwards of 70,	-	-	-	-	59

There are 5 landed proprietors of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards. The average number of children in each family is 4. There are 2 insane, and 3 fatuous persons.

*Character of the People.*—The people in general are sober, cleanly, frugal, and industrious; decent and exemplary in their attendance on religious ordinances; peaceable and friendly. They enjoy in a reasonable degree the comforts and advantages of society, and are contented with their situation and circumstances.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture and Rural Economy.*—The number of acres in the parish under tillage is 5683, and in pasture 23,006,—4428 of which are arable. Although the greater proportion of the ground between the river Nith, or western boundary, and the mountains on the eastern boundary, which fifty years ago was in a state of nature and covered with stunted heath, is brought into cultivation, either for grass or corn,—a considerable extent, perhaps not less than 2000 acres, of the higher ground might yet be improved permanently for pasture, by means of lime, and would probably yield an additional rent of five per cent. for the outlay. There are about 1500 acres of natural woods and plantations.

The natural woods consist of oak, ash, alder and birch; and the plantations, of oak, ash, elm, beech, Scotch fir, spruce fir, and larch. As more attention is paid to thinning the plantations in the early stages of their growth than is usual in Scotland they are in a very thriving condition. About 1200 of these acres under wood belong to the chief land-owner. He lately finished cutting down a plantation of 90 acres of Scotch fir sixty years old, which he disposed of for L. 10,000. It grew on the poorest sandy soil, not worth sixpence per acre, when the trees were planted.

*Rent of Land, &c.*—The average rent of arable land per acre is L. 1, 5s. and of grazing, is L. 4 per cow grazed, L. 2 per ox, and 4s. 6d per ewe, or full-grown sheep.

*Rate of Wages.*—The wages of a farm male-servant, board included, are L. 20; and female-servant L. 13 for the year. When

there is no contract by piece-work the rate of mason, carpenter, and other mechanical work, is 2s. 6d. for the day. A day-labourer receives 1s. 8d. in summer, and 1s. 4d. in winter. The price of coarse black faced wool is 7s., and of Cheviot wool 15s. per stone of 24 lbs.

*Breeds, &c.*—The common breeds of cattle are the Galloway and Ayrshire, to the improvement of which great attention has been paid.

*Husbandry.*—The approved course of agriculture followed in this parish is, the first year, oats upon newly broken up pasture; second year, potatoes, or turnips, consumed by sheep where they grow; third year, barley and grass seeds; fourth, hay; the two successive years, pasture. Bone-manure is now much used in the drill husbandry. It enables the farmer to raise turnips on ground, of which he could not otherwise avail himself. Till within these ten years, this highly beneficial crop was comparatively little cultivated in Nithsdale: and perhaps no part of Scotland is better adapted for it, and for its being consumed where it grows. The soil being porous soon becomes dry after the heaviest rains. Steam navigation has given a great stimulus to this branch of agriculture in this part of the country. Fat stock can now be conveyed in sixteen or eighteen hours to Liverpool, where there is always a ready market. Before this cheap and easy mode of conveyance was practised, Edinburgh and Glasgow were the only markets of which the farmer could avail himself, and these were attended with many obvious disadvantages. The common method adopted in the improvement of waste land is to spread 120 bushels of lime on each acre; then, at the distance of two or three years, to plough it for a crop of oats; then to prepare it with manure for fallow or green crop. Sometimes two or three crops are taken from the moorish soils. There being a considerable extent of poor moorish land on the estate of Closeburn, the proprietor had recourse to the following method of improving it, which was attended with complete success: Unwilling to deprive the richer grounds of manure, he commenced operations on a sterile district, by paring and burning the surface the first season; he ploughed it in the autumn and winter, and spread on it lime at the rate of 200 bushels per acre in the following spring; in the month of July he sowed grass seeds (Yorkshire fog) at the rate of five bushels per acre. This land has remained in pasture for twenty years, and is let annually at from 12s. to 15s. per acre. In its unimproved state it was not worth 2s. 6d. The expense of this improvement was about L. 6 per acre. Top-

dressing with lime is found to nearly double the value of land in pasture, both in quality and quantity, and is much practised in this parish by Mr Menteach.

The duration of leases is for 13, 15, or 19 years, according to the condition of the farm. Half a century ago the farm-houses of this parish were cottages built of rough stone and clay mortar, and containing generally two, sometimes three apartments, one of which was the kitchen. The floors were paved with mud, and the roofs destitute of ceiling. Such miserable buildings have been succeeded by comfortable and commodious dwelling-houses, generally of two stories, and in every way fitted for the convenience and accommodation of the respectable tenantry that inhabit them. The cottages of the peasantry are, with scarcely an exception, superior to the dwelling-houses fifty years ago, on farms now let at L. 500 a-year. The chief land-owner, by draining, liming, and enclosing, with stone walls, the whole arable part of his estate, amounting to 6550 acres, has expended more than double the sum for which the estate was purchased in 1783. In the very centre of the richest portions of it, a number of small peat mosses were deposited in basins of 150 acres in extent. It was a very expensive operation to fill up the numerous holes made by the parishioners, who had been for a long course of time in the habit of digging their supply of fuel from them. The liming, draining, and levelling, sometimes cost L. 40 an acre. They are now rich irrigated meadows, and yield an ample return for the outlay. The average quantity of hay is from 300 to 400 stones on each Scotch acre. On these meadows hay harvest commences about the beginning of July. What is cut down in one day, if the weather continue favourable, is housed on the evening of the next. This method preserves the saccharine juices which, by exposure to the weather, are evaporated, and the quality of the hay thereby deteriorated.

These moss meadows being very unproductive in dry seasons, the proprietor has availed himself of the command of water, which the more elevated parts of his property afforded. Several streams, many miles distant, have been diverted from their channels, and are employed most advantageously in irrigating these meadows in the months of April, May, and June.

*Quarries.*—There are several quarries of freestone, chiefly of old red sandstone, and one of limestone. The former are worked by removing the cover, and afford an excellent material for building and flooring. The *lamina* or plates are capable of being separated



so thin as to become an economical substitute for blue slate. When brushed over with coal tar, they are impervious to water. Advantage has been taken of a rivulet in the immediate vicinity of one of these quarries, to put in motion pumps, by a water-wheel, to drain it. Limestone is found in almost inexhaustible abundance. The cover being deep, it is extracted from the quarry by means of excavations. In proceeding with these operations, the miners leave pillars of six square yards in thickness, at the distance of 30 feet, to support the roof, which, together with the floor, is worked into a regular form. The rock being very compact, they avail themselves of the aid of gunpowder. The mode of raising the limestone from this quarry is rather ingenious. From the centre of the excavations an iron railway on an inclined plane, 200 yards long, extends to the top of the kiln, up which loaded waggons ascend with the utmost facility, by means of a water-wheel put in motion by a stream of water brought six miles for the purpose. This stream is appropriated to other purposes. Descending to a lower level, it falls on another wheel, which puts in motion fanners to throw air into the bottom of lime-kilns, to facilitate the burning of limestone, and diminish the fuel necessary for driving off the carbonic acid; to move pumps to drain the lime quarry, and also machinery for sawing timber. This stream is then conveyed away for irrigation. The kilns here mentioned are of the most improved construction for burning lime with the smallest quantity of fuel.

*Produce.*—The gross amount and value of raw produce yearly raised in the parish, as nearly as can be ascertained, is as follows :

Produce of grain of all kinds,	-	-	-	-	-	L. 14,800
of potatoes and turnips,	-	-	-	-	-	7000
of hay, meadow and cultivated,	-	-	-	-	-	5000
of land in pasture, rating it at L. 2 per ox, and 4s. 6d. per ewe,	-	-	-	-	-	8000
of the annual thinning and periodical felling of wood, plantations,	-	-	-	-	-	2000
and copse, and bark,	-	-	-	-	-	3500
Lime quarry,	-	-	-	-	-	3500
Total yearly value of raw produce,	-	-	-	-	-	<u>L. 40,300</u>

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Markets, &c.*—The nearest market-town is Dumfries, 12 miles distant. There are four small villages in the parish. There are two turnpike roads; the one connects Annandale with Nithsdale, and is about eight miles long; the other is six miles long, and forms a part of the great road from Carlisle to Glasgow by Dumfries. About four miles northward it sends off a branch to Edin-

burgh. On this road two coaches travel; the one from Carlisle to Glasgow daily, and the other from Dumfries to Edinburgh thrice a-week. These and the district roads are well supplied with bridges, and in excellent condition. All the arable and pasture lands in the parish are inclosed with dry-stone fences.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church is very conveniently situated for the greater part of the population. It was built in 1741, and is distant about three miles from the western, and eight from the eastern, extremity of the parish. Having undergone lately a thorough repair, it is one of the handsomest in this part of the country, and contains sittings for 650 people. Six of the seats are free, and capable of accommodating 80 people. The free sittings are uniformly the first occupied, and the most crowded. The manse was built in 1760, and repaired in 1816, when a large addition was made to it, which has rendered it both comfortable and commodious. The glebe is 10 acres in extent, and about L. 20 in value. The stipend is 16 chalders of meal and barley, in equal proportions, and L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements.

The Established church is the only place of worship in the parish. The number of Presbyterian dissenters of all ages, including five Catholics, is 137. The remainder of the population adhere to the Establishment. When the weather is favourable, the church is remarkably well attended, and by people from every quarter of the parish. The average number of communicants is 500.

*Education.*—There are five schools; but no legal salary is attached to any of them. The principal one is a free school, which was amply endowed in 1723 by John Wallace, a native of the parish, who had realized a considerable fortune in Glasgow by mercantile pursuits. The sum he bequeathed for carrying his benevolent intentions into effect was L. 1600, the greater part of which, in terms of the deed of endowment, was to be invested in land; the remainder to be appropriated to the erection of a school and dwelling-house for the rector, and the purchase of a contiguous field of five acres. The management of the fund was committed to the Presbytery of Penpont, who were authorized to watch over the interests of the seminary, and to judge of the qualifications of the rector and the assistant teacher. In this seminary the children of the parish; but not those who attend from other parishes, are entitled to be taught English, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, Greek, and Latin, free of expense. Other branches also are taught. Irregular attendance on the part of

the scholars generally,—a circumstance over which the rector has no control,—tends much to impede their progress. This defect might have been in a great measure remedied, had he been permitted to exact a small fee from each. It is, however, a great blessing to the parish, and has been the means of rescuing many from obscurity who have risen to eminence and adorned the situations they occupied. The present rector has expended a considerable sum in building a large and commodious dwelling-house, and otherwise improving the endowment. His annual income, after deducting public burdens, and the salary of the assistant, is L. 356.

About a quarter of a mile from the free school, there is a female school, at which are taught needle-work, sewing, reading, writing, arithmetic, and geography. Mr Menteth pays a handsome salary to the teacher. He has fitted up and furnished a commodious dwelling-house for her. The fees are very moderate, and suited to the circumstances of the parents. There are other three schools situated in districts too distant to reap advantage from the free school, at which the same branches are taught as in the free school, with the exception of the Greek and Latin. The school of Wallace-hall being in the centre of the parish, renders a legal one unnecessary. There being no parochial school, the heritors voluntarily assess themselves in the sum of L. 35 annually, which, with the addition of L. 5 paid by the rector of the free school in terms of the deed of endowment, affords to each of the teachers a salary of about L. 13 a-year. The general expense of education at these schools varies from 6s. to 12s. a-year, according to the attainments of the children. The annual amount of school fees does not exceed L. 24. There is not an individual in the parish, so far as I know, who has not received the elements of a common education.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid is 21, and the average sum allotted to each is L. 3 a-year. A few indigent families get an occasional supply. The sum at the disposal of the kirk-session for behoof of the poor is L. 71 annually. This arises from the interest of L. 225, bequeathed at different times, and lent at four per cent., the weekly collections at the church door, amounting to L. 52, mortcloth and marriage dues. In general, none apply for parochial aid until forced to do so by necessity. Such is the feeling of independence on the part of the people generally, that, did their age and infir-

mities permit, they would much rather support themselves by their own exertions.

*Fuel, &c.*—The high grounds afford an inexhaustible supply of peat. This substance requiring much time and labour, and likewise a dry season to prepare it for domestic purposes, has in a great measure been superseded by coal. The nearest coal field is that of Sanquhar, at the distance of 14 miles. Excellent Sanquhar coal can be purchased at 11s. per ton, carriage included. Mansfield coal, in Ayrshire, at the distance of 25 miles, and not inferior in quality to any in Scotland, is also much used, and can be procured at 13s. per ton, carriage included. English coal, shipborne, can be purchased at 21s. per ton. The extensive woods furnish the poor with a pretty regular supply of fuel. It is now a prevalent opinion that peat is more expensive than coal.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

When the former Statistical Account was written, the number of arable acres was about 2400, and the rental of the parish L. 3500. There were very few enclosures, and the farm-houses and offices were miserable hovels. At present the number of arable acres is 9000, all well enclosed; the rental is above L. 12,000; and the farm-houses and offices substantially built, and neatly finished. Closeburn, which half a century ago was one of the bleakest and most uncultivated, is now one of the most improved, beautiful, and richly wooded parishes in the south of Scotland.

*January 1834.*

# PARISH OF MORTON.

PRESBYTERY OF PENPONT, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.

THE REV. DAVID SMITH, MINISTER.

---

## L.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name, Boundaries.*—MORTON, an Anglo-Saxon word, signifies the *stronghold or dwelling on the moor*. On the north-west extremity of an extensive moor, and at the bottom of a beautiful green hill, from which it is separated by a deep glen, stands the old castle or stronghold of Morton, from which the parish seems to have taken its name.

The boundaries and figure of the parish are very irregular. On the north-west and west it is bounded by the parish of Durrisdeer, from which it is separated by the Shielhouse rivulet and the river Carron; on the south-west, by the river Nith, which divides it from the parish of Penpont, with the exception of about 120 acres called Morton-holm, lying on the south bank of that river; on the south-east and east, by the united parishes of Closeburn and Dalgarno, from which it is separated by the Cample; and on the north and north-west, it is bounded by Crawford parish in Lanarkshire. The march runs from the north-eastward along the waterfall of a mountain called Glenleith. The extent of the parish from south to north is about seven imperial miles, and its mean breadth about four; and it contains about twenty-eight square miles.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The external surface of this parish is varied, being diversified by ridge and valley. Along the banks of the rivers, especially the Nith and Cample, it is low and level, and the soil rich and productive. To the north of the Nith, there is a considerable ridge of rising ground, the soil of which is light, but kindly and fertile, and lies on a gravelly bottom. On the most elevated part of this ridge Thornhill is situated, a clean, healthy, and populous village; through which the high roads from Dumfries and from Galloway, by Minihive and Penpont, pass to Edinburgh and Glasgow, and separate again to each of these cities at Carron-bridge, the boun-

dary of Morton with Durrisdeer. A little farther to the northward from Thornhill, other two ridges run across the parish, rising gently the one above the other. Here the soil is damp and wettish, lying on a clayey bottom. Of these, extensive tracts are still in a state of nature, though capable of cultivation; and will, we trust, soon be improved, from the great encouragement given by the present Noble and spirited proprietor. Beyond this, again, the surface inclines with a gentle depression; and, on the other side of this valley, the remainder of the parish rises into hills and mountains, some of which are of considerable height, especially one, which is about 2500 feet above the level of the sea. At the bottom of these hills and mountains, there is a considerable extent of arable and meadow land, of a rich alluvial soil, and very productive. The ranges of the ridges and rising grounds of the hills and mountains run across the parish from south-east to north-west. The greater part of the arable land lies on a free red sandstone bottom, under the clay or gravel; and the mountains rest on the primitive and whinstone rocks.

*Meteorology.*—The soil in this parish and district being in general dry, without fens, bogs, or morasses, and the air pure, mild, and temperate, the climate is good, and the people healthy. The prevailing winds here are from the westward, perhaps nearly two-thirds of the year. Our heaviest rains are from the south-west, and settled dry weather chiefly from the north-west. In the spring months of March and April, indeed, we have often very high, cold, and stormy winds from the east. Sometimes also, at this season, there are very drenching and heavy rains from the south-east.

*Hydrography.*—This parish is well supplied with water by the rivers Carron and Cample, as above stated, on its western and eastern boundaries; on the south, by the Nith, which, running south-east, flows into the Solway Firth about four miles south-west from Dumfries; and the interior part is abundantly supplied by burns, rivulets, and perennial springs. There is also a strong chalybeate spring or spa, from which many are said to have derived great benefit in bilious and bowel complaints.

*Zoology.*—The zoology of this parish is not at present distinguished by any of the rarer species of animals. Under this head, however, the writer may take occasion to notice, that the Nith and all its tributary streams close on the 25th September, and open on the 10th March; and that to these terms there are very strong and not unfounded objections. The general opinion and

wish seem to be, that the rivers of this county, the Esk, the Annan, and the Nith, should close and open at the same time as the Tweed, and in this respect be under the same regulations.

The Nith and all its branches are poached without interruption during the whole of the close season, and to such extent that, in the general opinion, for every salmon taken in the open or legal season, more than thirty are destroyed in the close period,—a practice which ruins the health, destroys the industry, corrupts the morals, and, familiarizing the mind to habitual and open violations of law, seldom fails to terminate in atrocious and daring acts of wickedness; while by the toleration of such irregular deeds, thousands of parent fishes are destroyed in the breeding season. The season when every other animal is not only spared, but protected and watched with care, is to the finny tribe the season of insecurity, danger, and destruction. And the breeding fishes, impelled by an instinct or feeling common to all animated nature, the provident and wise inspiration of its Author, when in the very act of bringing forth or providing a place of security wherein to deposit their fry, are barbarously destroyed with millions of their young, destined by Heaven, but for the improvident cruelty of man, to minister to his comforts, and feed the hungry in coming years. Nor is there any likelihood of the practice being put a stop to, until some regulation shall take place, respecting an embankment or barrier across the river Nith at Dumfries. By this embankment the course or run of the fishes is impeded, almost entirely prevented, and the fishing properties of the river and its branches are greatly deteriorated and rendered of very little value in the upper districts; and hence the proprietors refuse to give their aid, or be at any expense, to suppress the practice, unless such a run shall be opened and protected as to render their fishing properties valuable. It is only when the river is large and swelled by the autumnal and winter rains, the very time when the river is closed, that any salmon can overleap the embankment and find their way up the streams. At other times, and when the river is small, as is the case during the greater part of the open season, hardly is there a salmon to be seen in the upper districts, and fishings which formerly were of great value are at present worth little or nothing.

## II.--CIVIL HISTORY.

*Historical Events.*—About the centre nearly of the parish stand the ruins of the old castle or stronghold of Morton, erected, it is

believed, by a Norman chief of the name of De Moreville, whose family settled in Scotland in the tenth century, became connected with some of the chief families of the kingdom, and rose to great power, wealth, and eminence. He obtained extensive grants of territory in this and other parts of the country, and was appointed hereditary Lord High Constable of Scotland. His grandson, Hugo De Moreville, appears a witness to various royal charters granted in the reigns of Alexander and David I. In the year 1140, he founded the monastery of Kilwinning in Ayrshire, and in 1144, the Abbey of Dryburgh in Teviotdale. A short time afterwards he gave a portion of land called the Park to the Abbey of Melrose, which, with the church of Morton, was afterwards bestowed on the monks of Kelso. When these monks formed an estimate of their property in the fourteenth century, they stated that they possessed the church of Morton in rectorial, which used to render by the year L. 10. He was succeeded by his son Richard De Moreville, who also appears as a witness to various royal charters in the reigns of David and Malcolm IV. Richard was succeeded by his son William De Moreville, who died without issue; and Rolland Lord of Galloway, who had married Emma, daughter of Richard, and the sister of William De Moreville, succeeded to the office of Lord High Constable of Scotland, the castle of Morton, and all the possessions and wealth of the family. Allan, Rolland's son, married Margaret, the eldest daughter of David Earl of Huntington, by whom he had three daughters, the eldest of whom married John Baliol, the father of John Baliol, who for seven years was king of Scotland. After the Baliol and English party were overthrown, and Robert Bruce firmly seated on the Scottish throne, the lands and fortunes of the former and their adherents were bestowed as rewards of service on the friends of Bruce; and of these Randolph, the king's nephew, obtained extensive grants of lands in Annandale, and the lands and castle of Morton, which he held when Regent, during the minority of David Bruce. By a secret article of the treaty for the restoration of David II. it is said, the Scots agreed to dismantle the castles of Dumfries, Dalswinton, Morton, and Durrisdeer. In the reign of Robert II. the king bestowed his daughter Egidia, the loveliest woman of the age, on William Douglas, natural son of Archibald Douglas Lord of Galloway, then the most distinguished of the Scottish youth for dignified and graceful appearance, for modesty, bravery, and every mental and corporeal endowment,—and with her, the castle of Morton and county of Nithsdale next to Gal-



loway, as a dowry. In 1390, William Douglas of Nithsdale, his country being at peace, and he not willing to languish in indolence at home, set out to Prussia to the Holy war, and was assassinated at Dantzic, on the Vistula, by assassins hired by Clifford, an Englishman, formerly his rival, and now envious of his honour and promotion. Ever since this period, the castle and lands of Morton have been in the possession of one or other of the family of Douglas.\*

*Antiquities.*—Of these the old castle, with its appendages of fortification and means of defence, is most worthy of notice. Though not more than one-half of the original structure now exists, it is, notwithstanding, the most perfect ruin of the kind in this part of the country. Situated on the brink of a deep glen, extending to a considerable distance south-east and north-west, and in which the water being stopt by large dams, and strong embankments at each extremity, must have collected to the depth of several fathoms,—the place must have been proof against assault or surprise on this side. The present remains extend to upwards of 100 feet in length, by nearly 30 in width; but, to judge from the vestiges of the foundation, the Castle must have occupied, when entire, a much larger space. The wall of the south front is yet entire; from the foundation, it is about 40 feet high; and on the top, at each corner, it has a large round tower about 12 feet in diameter. The walls at the foundation are about 8, in some places 10, feet thick.

At a short distance north-west of the castle, and on the other side of the glen, are the remains of a strong fortification, with entrenchments, which seem to have been a Roman fort or castellum, still called by the name of Deer Camp; it is about two miles north of Tibbers, *Tiberii Castra*,—the great Roman station in the parish of Penpont, a station well chosen to watch and guard against in-

\* This parish gives the title of Earl to Douglas Earl of Morton. Morton Castle, it is said, was at one time his place of residence. He was proprietor of the whole parish, with the exception of the Mains of Morton, lying north-west of the castle, which belonged to James Douglas, laird of Morton, whose son, Malcolm Douglas of Mains, was distinguished for bravery in the border history. The last of this family was Captain James Douglas, who died at Bratford, in the parish of Penpont, about the beginning of last century. The Earl of Morton, who possessed large estates and castles in different part of the country, sold his whole property and interest in this parish to Sir William Douglas Cashoggle, who erected a house a little south of Thornhill, called the Red-House, where he sometimes resided; but the Earl of Queensberry having obtained from Cashoggle all his lands, as well as the lands of Morton Mains from the other family, and being lord of the regality of Hawick, he obtained authority to translate that regality to Thornhill in 1610, and called it New Dalgarnoch.

cursions from recesses of the mountains on the north and north-east. At a small distance from this fort, stood a venerable tree, which, a considerable number of years ago, was overthrown and uprooted by a tremendous gust of wind, and which, according to the tradition of the country, was for generations known by the name of the Judgment Thorn; and at about a mile south of this seat of Judgment, is a field still distinguished by the name of Galliflat, or Gallow's Flat, where it is said, judgment was carried into execution; and about 300 yards south from the old castle, and on a rising ground, is the vestige of a small station or camp, called Watchman Knowe.

In the beginning of last century, there was a boat cut out of one solid piece of wood, in the form of an Indian canoe, dug out of the bottom of a moss not far from the old castle,—a proof that, at one time, it must have been a loch. A short time after this, there was dug out of the same moss a small copper camp-kettle; and in the year 1728, a fine copper cast tea-pot strop, quite entire. It is said also, that not long ago a large massy piece of pure solid gold, in the form of a circle or ring, such as is used on the handle of a sword, for ornament or defence for the hand, was found by a man casting turf, who sold it for one guinea, and that it was sold again for upwards of twenty guineas. Near this same place, stood two lofty columns or pillars of hewn stone, and about a mile south of these, stood another of the same description,—both, probably, memorials of the brave who had fallen in battle. Another cross or column stood a little to the west of the church,—said to have been originally surrounded by a large circle of coarse blocks of stone, at equal and regular distances, and which were gradually removed in the progress of improvement. This column must have been British,—probably a Druidical fane. These columns, about fifty years ago, were very improperly allowed to be removed and carried off from the parish by a gentleman, who then sought to signalize himself as an antiquarian, though he seems not to have known or reflected, that monuments of antiquity lose all their value by removal from the place where they have long stood, and were originally erected.

In this parish I have seen two or three tumuli, which, some years ago, were removed to make or repair roads, by persons who were incompetent either to examine the contents, or to give an account of what was discovered. They could only report that in the centre, were found a few flag-stones set together, but nothing

else worthy of notice. About thirty-six years ago, the writer was present at the opening of two tumuli in Annandale, in every respect similar to the two above mentioned, in external form and appearance. In the centre of the first, was found a red flag laid level on the earth, on which were placed two other flags of equal size, parallel to each other; and other two, one at each end; another was laid on the top as a cover. In the interior of this, was an urn containing ashes, with a few very thin plates of iron in the form of rings, so completely corroded with rust, that, when exposed to the air, they instantly crumbled into dust. The other likewise contained an urn; but, from want of care in forming the tumulus, or from some other cause, both the flags and urn were crushed and broken in pieces, and no discovery could be made; but, from what was observed in the former, it seemed probable, that they were British. Cæsar informs us, when he invaded Britain, that the British used iron for money,—“*Annulis ferreis pro nummis utuntur.*”

### III.—POPULATION.

1. Population in 1801,	-	-	-	-	1255
in 1811,	-	-	-	-	1570
in 1821,	-	-	-	-	1806
in 1831,	-	-	-	-	2140
Number of males,	-	-	-	-	1059
of females,	-	-	-	-	1081
2. Number in village of Thornhill,	-	-	-	-	1373
of Carronbridge,	-	-	-	-	197
in the country,	-	-	-	-	570
3. Average of children registered for 7 years,	-	-	-	-	40
of marriages,	-	-	-	-	18
of deaths, uncertain, not above	-	-	-	-	20
4. Persons under 15 years of age,	-	-	-	-	892
upwards of 70,	-	-	-	-	87
5. Number of unmarried men, bachelors and widowers, above 50 years of age,	-	-	-	-	43
of unmarried women, above 45,	-	-	-	-	58
of families,	-	-	-	-	483
6. Number of inhabited houses,	-	-	-	-	350
of uninhabited houses,	-	-	-	-	4
7. The number of families in the parish is	-	-	-	-	483
employed in agriculture, as occupiers or labourers, is	-	-	-	-	41
employed in manufactures, retail trade, and handicraft,	-	-	-	-	170

The increase of the population lately has been very striking. Since the beginning of June, when the last census began to be taken, to the beginning of the following month of October, I baptized 16 children, besides those that may have been baptized

by dissenting clergymen; and in the whole parish there have been altogether within these two periods only three deaths.

The Duke of Buccleuch, who succeeded to the dukedom of Queensberry in 1810, is now sole proprietor of the parish of Morton, with the exception of the farm of Ridings, which is the property of Robert Kennedy, Esq. of Dalwhat, who resides in this parish on his property.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture and Rural Economy.*—The parish contains about 9000 imperial acres; and the gross rental is L. 3060, which, on an average, will be between 6s. and 7s. per acre. Of the above, as nearly as can be ascertained, 2600 acres have been cultivated, and are occasionally in tillage, or in meadow, and of which the rent, according to its situation, quality, or state of cultivation, does not exceed at present 8s. 10s. or 16s. per acre. About 3500 acres must remain waste or in pasture; and I have no doubt that 1000 or 1200 acres more may, with a profitable application of capital, be added to the cultivated land,—either for meadow, occasional tillage, or permanent pasture. About 480 imperial acres are under wood, 90 acres of which is natural, and consists chiefly of British oak from 45 to 50 years old, with a few withered birches. 100 acres more are now in the course of being planted. There are no undivided lands or commons in this parish.

*Breeds, &c.*—Of the kinds of sheep, the black-faced are considered the best suited for this parish, being a more hardy, sound, and healthy stock, and better suited to the climate and pasture; yet, in an adjoining farm in the parish of Closeburn, the Cheviot breed has been introduced with success. Upon the farms adapted for cattle, especially where the young are reared, the stock selected is of the Galloway breed. By the farmers whose attention is directed to the dairy system, the Ayrshire cows are preferred, as giving milk in larger quantities; yet there are some who prefer the Galloway cow; though the milk be less in quantity, it is sure to be richer, and of superior quality. And, with regard to horses, attention is here chiefly given to the breed of work-horses, which, of late years, has been much improved.

*Husbandry.*—New leases of 19 years' endurance have been entered into, and commenced at Whitsunday 1832, on terms highly advantageous to the tenants; the good effects of which already appear. Large tracts of wild uncultivated land, hitherto of little va-

lue, have already been reclaimed, and will this year be under white crop; and if the present spirit does not greatly relax, there is every reason to believe, that in the course of a few seasons, an addition of more than a third will be made to the improved arable, meadow, and pasture grounds. Inclosures and plantations are advancing with astonishing rapidity. New erections of houses and farming establishments for the accommodation of tenants are rising in every direction, as comfortable and convenient, substantial and useful, to the occupiers, as ornamental to the country, which already begins to assume a new aspect. Nor is the change for the better less observable in the village of Thornhill, where the benevolent proprietor, the Duke of Buccleuch, with great judgment and propriety, is at present expending very considerable sums in levelling and paving the streets, in forming common sewers, removing nuisances, providing a supply of good water, and making other improvements tending to promote the comfort, the cleanliness, the health, morality, and virtue of the inhabitants.

*Rate of Wages.*—The wages of farm-servants, labourers, artisans, and others connected with husbandry, are various, but are nearly as follows, yearly. For a man-servant living in the family, L. 12, 12s.; qualified ploughman, L. 16, 16s.; farm female-servant, L. 6, 6s.; dairy-maid or byre-woman, L. 7, 7s. Farm-labourers receive per day, 1s. 6d.; hay, turnip, and potatoe-labourers, 1s. 2d.; a mower to cut or mow hay, 3s.; a carpenter or joiner, 2s. 6d.; a mason 3s. In autumn the rates are higher, and vary almost every day, being sometimes as high as 2s. 6d. with maintenance in the farmer's family.

*Produce.*—The average gross amount of raw produce raised yearly in the parish, as nearly as can be ascertained, is as follows:

120 acres potatoes,	-	at L. 6 10 0 per acre,	-	L. 720 0 0
80 do. turnip,	-	3 0 0 do.	-	240 0 0
280 do. oats,	-	4 10 0 do.	-	1260 0 0
170 do. barley,	-	6 6 0 do.	-	1071 0 0
100 do. meadow hay,	-	3 10 0 do.	-	350 0 0
170 do. cultivated hay,	-	6 0 0 do.	-	1020 0 0
1680 do. arable pasture,	-	0 10 0 do.	-	840 0 0
110 scores sheep,	-	7 10 0	-	825 0 0
250 cows,	-	6 4 0	-	1562 10 0
350 young cattle,	-	3 10 0	-	1225 0 0
				L. 9113 10 0

## V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Markets, &c.*—The village of Thornhill was at first intended to be a market-town, and authority was obtained to hold a market in it every Tuesday. But though a weekly market established in this village would be a great public benefit conferred upon this part of the country, as well as the village, it has never yet succeeded. It is supposed, however, that it could be easily made to succeed by the present Noble proprietor, who would thereby merit the public gratitude.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church was built in 1781, and is not inconveniently situate for the parish in general. At present it is not in a good state of repair,—the repairs having been delayed in the prospect of its being soon removed to a situation more convenient for the inhabitants of the village. It affords accommodation for between 500 and 600 persons, and is too small for the present population; but, by the erection of galleries, may be made to accommodate 200 more, and be sufficiently large: the seats are all free. The manse was built about the middle of last century, was repaired lately, and though small, is comfortable. The glebe is about twenty acres in extent, and is worth about L. 25 yearly. The stipend is 16 chalders, half meal, half barley, with L. 10 for communion elements; it was augmented on the 27th January 1830. Since which time the stipend, converted to money, has averaged L. 247, 9s. 2½d. per annum.

Divine service at the Established church is regularly attended by about 350 families, and the average number of communicants is about 500. There is a dissenting chapel in the village, formerly of the Antiburgher persuasion, now of the United Associate Synod. There are besides, a few Cameronians, and several of the Relief persuasion attached to these two congregations, in the adjoining parish of Penpont. The number of families belonging to the Secession Associate Synod, Relief, and Cameronians, is 133. Only 15 individuals are Cameronians. Of late many of the young in the families of Seceders have been returning to the Established church.

*Education.*—There is only one established parochial teacher in this parish. The salary enjoyed by him amounts to L. 34, 4s. 4½d. with a house and garden, and a park of land of about two acres or upwards, which he possesses rent free. The average amount of fees is about L. 30 yearly. Besides the parochial, there are four schools unendowed in the parish.

*Library.*—Though we have not yet reached the establishment of a public reading-room, there are several clubs or societies for the purchase of newspapers and other periodical publications, to be read and perused in their own dwellings. The desire for reading and information of every description has of late years much increased, and seems still increasing. A subscription library was established in Thornhill in 1814, which is doing well; and the subscribers are numerous.

*Charitable Institutions, &c.*—There are three men's and one women's Society; two of the men's are stock societies, and one what is called a penny society. One of the stock societies has existed for upwards of 30 years; one 22 years; the penny society about 10 years; and the women's society 25 years. It is impossible to speak too highly of their benevolent object; and the good they have accomplished here is inexpressible.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The average number of poor receiving parish aid has of late been about 30, and is rapidly increasing,—the aversion to make application, and be put on the poors' roll, though still in some degree felt, gradually wearing away. Our only regular source of supply for their relief is from the weekly collections in the church, which amount to L. 40 yearly, with the interest of L. 60; and from occasional collections and contributions from the heritors and others, which may amount to as much. There are two general distributions in the year, at Whitsunday and Martinmas, besides almost weekly private disbursements to those whose necessities require it. The yearly sum to those on the roll is various, from L. 1, 4s. to L. 6; but besides the above, I believe more is given by individuals in private alms, in clothing, in articles of food, and also in money. No regular assessment of poors' rate has yet been had recourse to in this parish.

*Inns, &c.*—There are two very respectable inns in the village, which are sufficient for the parish; though there are eight or ten inferior lodging and dram-houses in the same place, besides three in Carronbridge.

*Fuel.*—The fuel used here is peat and coal; of the former, there is still a moderate supply within the bounds of the parish, though now wearing fast away: and the nearest coal is at Sanquhar, about twelve miles distant.

*January 1834.*

## PARISH OF MOFFAT.

PRESBYTERY OF LOCHMABEN, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.

THE REV. ALEXANDER JOHNSTONE, MINISTER. \*

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name, Boundaries, &c.*—THE name is ancient, and applies to the village, to the parish, and to the principal stream and vale. When the deep and romantic pastoral valley of Moffat Water was densely wooded, it must have well suited the name it bore in the Gaelic language, “*Oua-vat*,” which is said to signify “a long deep mountain hollow.”

The greatest length of the parish is about 15 miles, and the greatest breadth from 8 to 9 miles. The contents, according to the county map, are  $56\frac{1}{4}$  square miles; but including Hart-hope and Raecleugh in Lanarkshire, they must be 60 square miles, or 38,400 English acres. It is bounded on the north by Tweedsmuir parish with part of Lyne and Megget; by Eskdale-muir and Hatton on the east; by Wamphray and Kirkpatrick-Juxta on the south; and by the latter parish, and that of Crawford on the west. The figure is irregular, projecting considerably to the N. E., between the counties of Peebles and Selkirk, but is deeply indented on the east by a part of Selkirkshire, and on the S. W. by the parish of Kirkpatrick-Juxta. In the line of the boundaries are the summits of Hartfell and Lochcraig, on the north; Birkhill pass, and the tops of Bodisbeck and Lochfell on the N. E.; the Bell Craig linn burn on the south; on the west, the river Annan from Woodfoot to Bridgend, and thence by the Meikle holm side burn, the Blacklaw hill,—a small part of Middlegill burn,—and the grain of Garpel Water head; then on the N. W. are the hills whose water-shed is into the Daer and the Clyde.

*Topographical Appearances.*—Parallel ranges of hills of moderate elevation form the waterfalls of Evan on the N. W., and of Annan

\* This Account was written, at the request of the minister when indisposed, by the Rev. Dr Singer, Minister of Kirkpatrick-Juxta.



in the northern central parts; and steeper and higher lands range along Moffat Water; the gorges of these three vales and the three rivers uniting below Moffat; and the united streams afterwards passing under the name of the river Annan. Although the village of Moffat is situated at an elevation of about 370 feet above the sea, and the meeting of the three rivers below must be at an elevation of about 350 feet above sea level, to this point of junction they all descend briskly in their courses: Annan Water running southward about seven miles: Moffat Water descending to the south-west about ten miles; and only about four or five miles of the upper part of Evan Water being in this parish, moving to the south by east. The beds of Annan and Moffat Waters are mostly formed of gravel and sand with rounded stones; the course of Evan is over almost vertical rocks. The hills and mountains ranging along these rivers are generally steep, in some instances almost inaccessible; but though the waterfall is brisk, it is distributed over long spaces, and excellent public roads have been long open in the direction of these rivers; the well-known Evandale road, affording a safe and easy communication as part of the mail-coach road from Carlisle to Glasgow, and the improved line in the direction of Annan Water being part of the mail-coach road from Dumfries to Edinburgh; while up Moffat Water carriages pass without any difficulty or danger by the lakes and Yarrow to Selkirk, the access being good and safe in all these directions; and very easy to the burgh of Annan on the south, distant 27 miles. The vales formed along Annan and Moffat Waters are narrow, but of a dry and fertile soil; that of Evan Water is not only more confined, but less fertile, and more heathy. All these water-courses are well adapted for pasturage; and in the vales of Annan and Moffat Waters there is also a proportion of land in cultivation and planted with trees. It is believed that the passes at the upper parts of these rivers, when the greatest ascent along the road from Moffat has been gained, may rise generally to near a thousand feet in all, which, if distributed over a space of ten miles, would make an ascent as easy as necessary. But, of course, part of the roads are steeper.

The group of mountains called after *Hartfell*, and forming the highest land in Scotland lying south of the Forth, contains the following, viz. *Hartfell*, whose height above the sea at low water is 2635 feet; *Whitcoom*, looking down on the basin of Lochskeen, 2685 feet; *Broadlaw* in Peebles-shire and Tweedsmuir parish, 2741 feet; *Ettrick Pen*, whose height is 2256 feet; and *Queensberry* to the

S. W. whose elevation is 2259 feet ; and the summit whereof is in latitude  $55^{\circ} 17' 2''$  N. ; and longitude  $3^{\circ} 34' 47''$  west. The heights of *Saddleback* and *Lochcraig* have not yet been correctly ascertained. The position of *Queensberry* was correctly laid down, and the precise elevations, in so far as above stated, have been certified from the great Ordnance survey, and by the highest authority.\* The *Hartfell* group of mountains includes *Lochfell*, nearly equal in height to the rest ; together with *Bodsbeck* and some others, whose elevation is not correctly known. *The Fells* in the south of Scotland and north of England are generally soft green hills of considerable elevation, and easy curved outline. If the word "*meaol*" or *veaol*, as it is often pronounced, and which in Gaelic is said to signify a *lump* or *flattish hill*, be the true etymon of these fells, it seems not inappropriate to their description. *The Hopes* are not uncommon terms as parts of mountain scenery in the pastoral regions of the south of Scotland, and they occur most frequently where the bases of mountains meet each other without leaving any level, as a vale. It is this line of meeting and ascent from it that is commonly called a *hope*, and with the name of the hill or farm superadded.

*Hartfell* may be ascended nearly all the way on horseback ; and from its green flat summit may be seen, in fine weather, the *Cheviots* in Northumberland, *Skiddaw*, and other mountains of Cumberland ; *Criffell* in Galloway, *Queensberry*, and the other mountains on the west ; *Corsoncone* in Nithsdale, *Blacklarg* in Ayrshire, and, at sunset, also *Benlmond* in Stirlingshire.

*Meteorology*.—The temperature of *Moffat* parish varies, of course, very considerably over the vales and mountains. But the aspect is to the southward, and the soil is commonly either naturally dry, or it has been drained where it was damp ; and the combined effect of these two causes has been felt to advantage in improving the climate throughout the parish. Snow is frequently attracted in showers to the mountains, and is seen lying there, white on the summits, when there is none below in the vales.

\* It may be interesting, for the purpose of comparison, to notice here the elevations of some higher mountains in England, on the south, and partly in sight of the above group. *Skiddaw* in Cumberland, above sea level, 3022 feet ; *Helvellyn*, in the same county, 3055 feet ; *Cheviot*, in Northumberland, 2665 feet. The elevations of some of the Scottish mountains in the north are as follows : *Bennachie*, in Aberdeenshire, above sea level, 2858 feet ; *Lochnagarr* in the same, 3777 feet ; *Benmachdowie*, in the same, 4905 feet ; *Cruachan* in Argyleshire, 3654 feet ; *Bennevis*, in Inverness-shire, 4368 feet.

The great elevation of the Hartfell group of mountains may account for occasionally deep falls of snow, attended by storms of wind and snow drift, of which very serious instances have occurred in this parish; but after all, the fact is not denied, that on these mountains the losses in sheep are not so great as in the less favourably situated hill pastures in the counties of Lanark, Peebles, and Selkirkshire, lying near them; and in the greener and lower, but softer hills of Eskdalemuir in Dumfries-shire, with a less favourable soil and aspect. The climate and temperature of the village of Moffat may be stated most intelligibly by comparison, being neither so cold as in Edinburgh, nor so wet as in Glasgow; and not so warm as in Dumfries and Annan; but all observation and experience concur in assigning to Moffat a mild temperature, and a healthy climate. The town is built on, and surrounded by, lands of a dry and gravelly description, so that the streets and roads around the village are soon dried after falls of rain. It has a gentle declivity to the south, and a noble screen of lofty mountains protecting it from north and east, and frequently attracting showers which otherwise must have fallen in the vale. There is here no eastern fog or *haar* (as it is called in Edinburgh) when there is an east wind, nor is Moffat exposed to the dense fogs that visit and hang over Dumfries and Annan from the Solway Firth, and from the vast mass of spongy peat still undrained in Lochar Moss. There is no furnace to cause a nuisance and contaminate the pure air, as in the vicinity of many populous and manufacturing towns. The centre of Moffat has been cleared and widened to the dimensions of a moderate square. It may be added, as connected with salubrity at least, that a full supply of the very best and purest spring water has lately been introduced in lead pipes from the parish of Kirkpatrick-Juxta, and carried below the bed of the Annan Water into Moffat; that in all directions the intercourse is easy and regular; that an elegant set of baths, and a long-room for the purposes of reading and assemblies, have been lately constructed on a superior plan; and that the habits of early rising, in order to visit the well, to which also there is a good walking and carriage road, have been thought materially to contribute to health. It may be added, that there is hardly any clay-bog undrained in the parish; that peat-bogs are not known to cause marsh fever; and that most of these are now drained for the benefit of the sheep, or for the purpose of being cut into peats, or improved and laid down in meadow grass; and, accordingly, among

the residents in Moffat, there are very few instances of ague. Typhus has often prevailed in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Carlisle, and other cities, when there was no such distemper in Moffat. Providence averted even the cholera, though severe in Glasgow, and especially in Dumfries, with which there was daily intercourse,—only two or three doubtful cases having occurred, and among strangers affected before they reached Moffat. If the climate be the cause of any local distempers, the writer has never heard of it, nor the medical friends he has consulted on the point.

The prevailing winds are from the west, and these are also the most powerful. The north wind is dry, and so also, for the most part, is the east wind. The south wind is warm, and inclines to moisture. About 40 shepherds reside in the parish, all observant enough of the prognostics of weather from so many mountain summits,—store-masters and farmers being also generally provided with barometers. The dreadful snow fall and blast of the 24th January 1794 was indicated by an uncommon fall in the barometer. A wet season is not so much dreaded here, because the soil of the mountains and the vales is mostly dry, and the sheep are not liable to the distemper called the rot, so fatal in some of the most fertile parts of England. The dry summer of 1826 threatened famine to the flocks and folds, and suffering to the poor; but the wheat crop of that year was very superior. One of the most alarming consequences of the droughts in 1826 and in 1832 was the failure of springs and of the smaller burns, which in some places occasioned a want of good water; and, on the whole, in such a soil as the mountains and vales of Moffat consist of, the frequent recurrence of showers is beneficial.

*Hydrography—Moffat Well and Hartfell Spa.*—As to common springs, they are numerous and pure, arising out of the gravelly soil. But with respect to *medicinal* springs, there are two, which have long been well known, and have attained great celebrity; one of which is called Moffat Well, and is of a sulphureous character; the other, a chalybeate, rising at the distance of four miles from the village, and known by the name of the Hartfell Spa. This chalybeate spring issues out of a deep ravine on the west side of the mountain, whose name it bears, about four miles N. W. from the village of Moffat. The ground all around having been deeply exposed, masses of conglomerate appear, containing rounded stones cemented by ferruginous and aluminous earths, of the properties of both which the spring partakes. John Williamson, who discovered this water,

had a monument erected to his memory in 1769. The water, as analyzed by Dr Garnet, contains 5 cubic inches azotic gas per wine gallon; 84 grains of sulphate of iron in the same; 12 grains of sulphate of alumina; 15 grains oxide of iron. The taste is not unpleasant. The water is richest immediately after heavy falls of rain; and it keeps long, and may be sent to distant places when the bottles are well-corked and sealed. A large wine-glassful is the common dose of the Hartfell Spa, taken twice or thrice a-day.

The Well, as it is called, was discovered nearly 200 years ago, and continues to maintain its character as a slow but sure and safe remedy in the complaints to which waters of this description are applied. It sparkles like champagne when taken from the fountain, and becomes pleasant by habitual use; some at last preferring to drink it before the purest spring-water; and, being light, it is taken in very large quantities. Dr Garnet's analysis gives 4 cubic inches of nitrogen gas in the wine gallon; 5 cubic inches of carbonic acid gas; 10 cubic inches of sulphuretted hydrogen gas; 36 grains of muriate of soda. This water is now conveyed in pipes to Moffat, for the use of persons inclined to have it there for warm-baths; but those who drink the water, of course, find it purest and most pleasant at the fountain, about a mile from Moffat, where a woman attends in an apartment for the use of visitants.

*Lochskeen.*—The only lake of importance is Lochskeen, formed in an elevated mountain basin, rather mossy, and having one or two rocky islets within its waters. Lochskeen is about three-quarters of a mile in length, and one quarter in breadth. Its elevated situation is thought to be above 1000 feet above sea level, and yet it contains the finest trout in this part of Scotland. The outlet of its waters is by the lofty cascade, called the Gray Mare's Tail, falling over precipitous rocks, which have been computed in all at 400 feet elevation above the vale,—this waterfall being broken into parts.

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—The soil of the vales is *alluvial*, and contains many rounded stones, with sand and gravel. The dry *mountain soils* are light, with grass and heath; but the growth of peat-moss heath is interrupted by draining and burning. Grass mixed with heath grows to the summit of the mountains, the outlines of which are curved and somewhat regular. The rivers and rivulets have opened scars in various places, exposing the *sub-*

*strata*; but these have not been at any time very particularly examined.

For the mineralogy of this parish, reference may be made to the survey of this county by Professor Jameson, and to the practical survey of the Bushbys coal-viewers, also to the sketch on the county map, inserted by the late General Dirom; but this field seems to have been little explored, and probably may yet be found rich in future discoveries.

*Sandstone* exists, but is not worked; and the same remark applies to *roofing-slate*. Coal has not been found, nor lime, but neither of them has been duly sought for. A drift was put into Hartfell, in search of *copper ore*, but without success. Gypsum occurs in thin veins, and also *calcareous spar*. The fine blue Moffat whinstone is one of the best for building, being rich in diffused quartz. No *mine* has been worked in this parish, and no adequate pains taken for the discovery of minerals,—the only trial for coal not having been well supported, nor made with judgment and perseverance.

*Zoology*.—In former times, the *hart* and *hind* were found in this parish; the last hart was killed in 1754, having been long single. The *roe-buck* and *doe* were also natives, but have long since disappeared. The *eagle* has become a rare bird, though still it may be seen occasionally floating over the summits of the high mountains. The *blue hawk* bred lately in the Bell Craig Linn. The *fox* continues to haunt in the hills and mountains, and to be destructive to lambs and poultry. It would be a wise measure to employ all the strength of the community here, as formerly in Dryfe, for destroying in season all sorts of birds and beasts of prey, and their broods, early in May, that being the proper time. *Game* appears liable to fluctuations, depending partly on the seasons, and partly, as is supposed, on the burning of the heath, and the care taken to destroy such creatures as are hurtful to the game; a task not easily performed, unless the shepherds take a part in it. *Black* and *red game*, with *partridges*, are found as usual in the proper situations. *Ptarmigan* are very rarely seen. The *heron* is often seen among the waters; and *wild ducks* occasionally visit them. *Wood pigeons* are numerous; and there are *common pigeons* which have bred in remote parts or old towers, and have become wild.

The domestic cattle are mostly of the Galloway breed, as reared for sale; and of the Ayrshire kind, as kept for milk cows. A cow

pasture at Moffat accommodates about thirty of the resident families, enabling them to sell milk to visitants. The *sheep stocks* are large and excellent; and are all, or nearly all, Cheviots, only a few of the black-faced breed being now left in the most exposed pastures, and a few crosses of Cheviots and Leicester in the lower farms. A few *goats*, for milk to strangers, have long been kept near the well. Pigs are not reared in this parish to any great extent.

The fishings of all the rivers of Dumfries-shire have become of little value, since stake-nets were permitted in the Solway, on the plan most destructive of the fish as they enter these rivers; and it is not easy to understand why the old acts which were framed before the union of the kingdoms are still allowed to remain in force; nor why, under these acts, *new* and more destructive modes of taking the fish have been permitted. Strangers who think proper to ask permission, are seldom refused the liberty of trouting in any of the rivers near Moffat; and every one should set his face against using nets to destroy the trouts, and still more against the mean and pernicious practice of killing the salmon in forbidden time, and in the season of spawning; a practice that led to the extinction of one poor family in Moffat long ago, that family having died out of putrid fever, occasioned by their living wholly on such unwholesome food.

*Botany.*—The *French* or *herb willow*, though a rare plant in many places, has become naturalized here. The *scented woodruff* appears in the rocky linns; a few plants of *juniper* exist; the wild *strawberry* and *raspberry* appear in a few places; *cranberry* in mossy bogs, and *blaeberry* and *crowberry* in the mountains. The *knub-berry*, otherwise called the *Queens-berry*, (*Rubus chamaemorus*,) would be far more plentiful if the sheep did not eat down the blossoms and leaves, and the fire occasionally burn the stems. The *hag-berry* has established itself,—and the *white thorn*,—their seeds being carried and propagated by the birds, as many other seeds are.

Among those plants which grow naturally and sometimes luxuriantly, though *not cultivated*, nor of much or any use, may be mentioned the *whin* in stiff tilly bottomed soils; the *broom* in light sand or gravel, both of which, though useful in former times, are now considered as weeds; also the sweet gale or gale (*Myrica*) in wet turf bogs; *rushes* and *carices* in the same soils; and the *marsh ma-*

*rigold* (*Caltha palustris*,) and *queen of the meadows* (*Spiræa ulmaria*); also ferns or *braken* in dry deep lands, and the *sloe* and *bramble*, which ought to be rooted out from all sheep-walks. One of the most pernicious weeds in this parish is the great *white ox eye* (*Chrysanthemum Leucanthemum*,) which, though an herb, is perennial, and very pernicious when allowed to establish itself. *Thistles*, *dochs*, *mugwort*, and other perennial weeds have been mostly extirpated, and so have some of the worst annuals, as common *gule*, *wild skale*, and *spurry*; but *corn chamomile* still appears occasionally in the fields, and is mistaken for the great white ox eye; and still we see a few plants of *corn-cockle* and *wild mustard* in the cultivated lands,—while other weeds infest the meadows and pastures. It would be of importance for every farmer to possess a short and practical manual containing a description of these and other weeds, and of the best mode of destroying them.

The *cultivated crops* of corn are *wheat* on a small scale, *barley*, and the best varieties of common and early *oats*; *bear* is hardly sown as a crop now, and *rye* is not sown at all.

Of *natural woods* in a parish that was, at one period, richly wooded, there are now very scanty remains at Craigieburn, and in a few other places. The oak, the ash, the birch, the hazel, and the mountain ash, grow spontaneously; but the interest of those connected with the soil induced them to cut down the more valuable trees; and their *stoles* not being protected, they died out. To compensate for this, in some degree, persons of public spirit formed plantations of forest trees; and among those who did most in this way were John Earl of Hopetoun, and Sir George Clerk Maxwell, about sixty years ago. The trees planted by them have prospered well, and have now arrived at considerable maturity. More recent plantations have, therefore, been encouraged, and these have been made by the late James Earl of Hopetoun and his representatives; by Dr Rogerson of Dumcrieff, and other gentlemen; and these plantations have prospered well, and have paid reasonably in cuttings and thinnings, with the prospect of the timber also doing well. The ash loses elasticity and value when suffered to be too aged before cutting, the *stoles* also not rising from the root; and even the oak, when not thriving, is apt to get spotted in the timber, and should be cut down. The Scots fir cannot be expected to lay on red heart-wood, unless allowed to stand well on to 100 years. No tree is so useful and valuable as the Scots elm; and none comes earlier



to use and maturity than the Huntingdon willow, though seldom planted here.

For the purposes of domestic economy and comfort, it were desirable that *fruit-trees*, and *willows* and *oziers* for baskets, were planted in the gardens of every farmer and every cottager, and to this it is hoped a liberal attention is now in the course of being given.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Historical Events.*—With regard to historical events of an ancient date,—little of this nature has been handed down in such a credible and interesting form as to warrant the insertion of it here. Margaret, daughter of Robert III. was Countess of Douglas, Countess of Galloway, and Lady of Annandale, and was interred at Lincluden, near Dumfries; but still the traditions of Moffat contain nothing of that distinguished lady. It is known, however, with pride and satisfaction, that in 1333, during a period fraught with ignominy and suffering to Scotland, Sir Archibald Douglas, at the head of 1000 horse, came down by night to Moffat, surprised Edward Baliol, defeated the forces he had with him, and obliged him to make a precipitate retreat to the Solway, with the loss of his brother, and of some English officers of distinction; and that hardly any affair in the history of Scotland appears to have been better conducted, as none was more acceptable to the nation.

It may also be mentioned here, that a division of the Highland army of Prince Charles Edward passed through Moffat on their way into England; that on their route they had visited the last Duke of Douglas in quest of arms; that his Grace treated them with great forbearance, and even with kindness, offering some handsome presents to the officers, which, in such circumstances, they declined to accept; and that, unless it was, in taking such horses and necessaries as could not be dispensed with in their ill-advised and unfortunate expedition, tradition here records nothing against them,—not a single act of hostility or cruelty.

*Eminent Men and Families.*—As far back as can be traced, the Johnstones were in possession of the most extensive estates in the upper district of Annandale; and of all the numerous families bearing this ancient name, the Johnstones of Lochwood were acknowledged as the chiefs. This distinguished family maintained their ground not only against foreign enemies from the borders of England, but also against the Lords of Sanquhar, the family which

became Earls of Dumfries; and against the powerful and ancient family of the Maxwells, Lords of Nithsdale. It was Johnstone of Lochwood, assisted by Kirkpatrick of Closeburn, and Grierson of Lagg, who suppressed the insurrection of the Duke of Albany and Earl of Douglas, when raising forces against the existing royal authority at Lochmaben. The flying spur, which is the crest of the Johnstones, and their motto "aye ready," seem to have been appropriate; for they carried that family safe through the civil wars, the Usurpation, and the Revolution; and their valour and patriotism obtained for the family of Johnstone of Lochwood, from Charles I. the title of Lord Johnstone; from Charles II. that of Earl; and from William III. that of Marquis of Annandale. The principal estate in this parish and district has descended to Mr Hope Johnstone of Annandale, to whom it is believed the titles also, in so far as claimed, of right belong, and whose restoration to the dormant honours of the family would afford universal satisfaction in this part of Scotland; because it is the general feeling that he has a right to them; and that in his family, they would not only be supported, but graced. William Earl of Annandale was Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly in 1705 and 1711, Charles Earl of Hopetoun in 1723, 1725, and 1726, and John Earl of Hopetoun in 1754.

Robert Johnston, Esq. of St Anne's London, bequeathed to Lord Johnstone L. 1000, for erecting a grammar-school in Moffat, and gave other handsome legacies to various towns and cities, for the public advantage; among which appears a sum of L. 3000 to the magistrates of Edinburgh, for the benefit of the industrious poor there, and for giving them useful employment.

The very eccentric yet highly talented Dr Moffat, wrote, in the time of Cromwell, a treatise on Foods, which is still extant; and was personally known to that great usurper.

Bishop Whiteford of Brechin was proprietor of Moffat, and of other lands in this parish, in the time of Charles I. His daughter, Miss Whiteford, married James Johnstone of Corehead, the bishop's chamberlain,—who thereupon became dispoonee to the bishop's lands in Moffat and Kirkpatrick-Juxta, of which an old decree for valuation of the teinds bears date 1637, four years after the act 1633 passed; and the disposition of the lands was in 1639.

An heiress of Johnstone of Corehead having married Dr George Milligan, minister of Moffat, their son Dr George Milligan John-

stone, M. D. became distinguished in his profession; he analyzed the mineral waters.

The accession of John Earl of Hopetoun to the management of the great estate of Annandale was auspicious in many respects for Moffat. The house belonging to the descendants there, was then erected; and the influence of this accession led also to the erection of two houses for the purpose of inns, one of which was long occupied as the King's Arms, and afforded such accommodation as was very unusual at the time of its erection. The good Earl James of Hopetoun occasionally resided in Moffat House,—at once the patron and example of all that is connected with the fear of God and benevolence towards mankind. His excellent and lamented daughter was like her father; and the names of the late Sir William and Lady Anne Johnstone Hope are never mentioned but with esteem and regret. The house is now again fitted up as the residence of some of that family, who have a personal as well as a hereditary claim to the respect of the people of Moffat. Sir George Clerk Maxwell was one of the commissioners for the good Duke Charles of Queensberry; and the influence he possessed, his residence at Dumcrieff in this parish, and his eminent public spirit and talents, altogether were very highly beneficial to this part of the country.

The Rev. Dr Walker, minister of Moffat, and who was translated to the chair of Natural History at Edinburgh, has left many admirable specimens of his distinguished qualifications for that office.

Mr Boyd, the celebrated banker, was born at Moffat, and entertained a kindly regard at all times for the place of his nativity.

The late Dr Rogerson of Russia having realized a handsome fortune in his honourable profession, and by the exercise of talents of a very high order, purchased large estates in this district, built a respectable mansion at Dumcrieff, to which he was partial as a place of residence and retirement; and settled and ended his life there, leaving it to his son and family, a legacy of future beneficence to the poor of Moffat.

It would be improper to omit here the name of Mr Murray, a native of Moffat, who has risen to high distinction as a scientific improver of the chronometer, and who has furnished a church clock, as a mark of regard to this parish.

*Landholders.*—These are, Mr Hope Johnstone of Annandale, whose lands extend to seven-sixteenths of the whole parish; Dr

Rogerson of Dumcrieff; the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry; Thomas Jardine, Esq. of Granton and Selcoth; Miss Munro Johnstone, of Corehead; Mr Bell of Rammerscales, proprietor of Bodisbeck; the heirs of Thomas Proudfoot, late of Craigieburn; Peter Johnstone, Esq. of Harthope; Peter Tod, Esq. of Holmhead and Reddings; the heirs of the late Mr Stevens of Larchhill; the heirs of the late Mr Tod of Heatherhaugh; the heirs of the late Adam Amos, Esq.; Alexander Craig, Esq. of Burnbraes; and various other persons, owners of land and houses in Moffat or near to it.

*Parochial Registers.*—These have been generally kept with attention, extending back to 1709, as far as relates to the minutes, and to 1723, as far as relates to the lists; and the heritors, in order to preserve these, have lately been at the expense of getting them all new bound up in a durable and respectable manner. But many parents neglect to record the dates of the birth of their children.

*Antiquities.*—In the list of these may be mentioned that part of the *old Roman road* up the vale of Annan towards Crawford, which is still visible in part, but which contains nothing, except what has often been described. The Romans have, on this line, put down long paving-stones, as the more durable mode of working. There is little recorded of the Frenchland Tower, which remains in tolerably good preservation, and seems rather to have been the residence of the family to which it belonged, than a place of strength.

Another and an older ruin is what is called the *Cornal Tower*, on the south side of Moffat Water, and which is said to have been the property and residence of Johnstone of Redacres, a younger branch of the family of Corehead.

Some of the old eminences, called *notes*, exist in this parish, but tradition gives no special account of them.

### III.—POPULATION.

1. In 1755, the population, as returned to Dr Webster, was	1612
2. In 1791, as reported by the Rev. Mr Brown, above	1600
3. By the returns for 1811 it amounted to	1824
4. By the returns of 1821,	2218
5. By the returns of 1831,	2221

There are always in summer many strangers residing in Moffat; and such has been the case for a long period of time. It is the resort occasionally of others in attending fairs and markets. It is

the constant residence of many respectable families occupied for the most part in business or in trade, or preferring Moffat as a permanent residence.

Number of families in the parish,	- - - - -	448
of families chiefly employed in agriculture,	- - - - -	62
chiefly employed in trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	- - - - -	151
residing in Moffat 320, in the country	- - - - -	128

*Character and Habits of the People.*—The habits of the people are particularly decent and cleanly, and their language is among the best samples of English to be found in any Scottish village. The gray plaid, thrown round the body, or across one shoulder and under the opposite arm, is still common. Curling with heavy dressed stones on the ice is the favourite amusement in winter. There is a bowling green; and a billiard table is prepared at the bath-rooms. A subscription and a circulating library furnish the people with books, exclusive of two daily newspapers and many others. There is hardly any smuggling or poaching; and low and gross acts of immorality are seldom heard of in Moffat.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

The real rent of lands in this parish is about L. 8000; of which are paid from sheep L. 5750, and from corn and cattle, L. 2250. The sheep-walks comprehend, it is believed, about 34,200 acres; the land in cultivation, about 3750 acres; natural woods, 200 acres, and plantations 250 acres. In all, 38,400 acres.

This view of the proportion of the land in cultivation corresponds with what was reported in the Statistical Account of 1791, when it was considered as about 3000 Scotch acres, being nearly the same as 3750 acres English; and in this respect there seems to be on the whole very little alteration. But though the extent of lands in culture is nearly the same, it is well known that the mode of cultivation is greatly improved.

The noble author of a celebrated work on emigration was of opinion, that, for such lands as those of Moffat parish, it was only necessary to have the shepherd and his dog. But a reasonable proportion of the lands in cultivation adds materially to the safety and value even of the sheep; and they are indispensable to the comforts and subsistence of that population, by whose labours sheltering walls are erected for the use of the sheep stocks, and green crops and sown grasses raised for the support of stocks that require it,—corn and cattle entering into the system, with sheltering plantations equally beneficial to the owners and their flocks, and

advantageous to landholders and to the community. It is in conformity with such an improved system of management that the agriculture of this parish is now conducted, and by a judicious and respectable tenantry. There are about 400 milch cows and 550 young cattle in the parish, besides the sheep, and from these and the crop lands must be made up the proportion of the rent. That part of the rent which is paid from sheep is very handsome, but the tenants are provided with suitable accommodations; and by means of skill and capital, with lands of a sound quality, and flocks of an established character, they are enabled to pay large rents, to employ many servants and artisans, and thus to divide, with their landholders and with the community, the benefits of their farming industry.

*Produce.*—It is the common rule, that the gross returns from farms in general ought to rise to about three times the rents; and this proportion holds in general as to arable and cattle farms; but the whole gross returns of this parish do not much exceed twice the rental, and this arises from the greater part being under sheep.

950 acres, supposed to be in oats, at 4 guineas the English acre, are	L. 3990	0	0
220 English acres in potatoes are worth about	L. 6, or L. 1320	0	0
110 do. turnips at L. 3,	330	0	0
—330 acres of green crops in all, valued at		1650	0
250 do. of sown grass for hay (spring fed) at L. 2,	L. 500	0	0
320 do. of meadow hay, do. do.	640	0	0
— Making 570 acres in hay, valued in all at	-	1140	0
1850 acres in field culture and crops, estimated in all at		L. 6780	0
400 milk cows grazed at L. 3 each come to	-	1200	0
550 young beasts grazed at L. 1, 10s average	-	825	0
—950 black cattle grazed, the whole grazing,		2025	0
400 swine, the feeding crops valued above, surplus L. 1 each,	-	400	0
50 young horses grazed at L. 3 each,	-	150	0
23,000 sheep grazed at 5s. each, average	-	5750	0
Grazing of live stock, in all estimated at	-	L. 8825	0
Woods 200 acres, plantations 250 acres, weedings and timber, of all	L. 450	0	0
Gardens and enclosed pastures for stock, partly estimated, surplus,	500	0	0
And including bees, poultry, &c. computed above crops at	50	0	0
		L. 1000	0
And the whole produce of 1850 acres in crops, being	L. 6780	0	0
Woods and parks, gardens, &c. 1900 acres, a surplus of	1000	0	0
And that of hill pasture 34,700 acres of sheep-walk,	5750	0	0
With horses, &c., on a total of 38,450 acres, cattle, swine, &c.	2575	0	0
The total returns from lands in the parish are about	-	L. 16,105	0

*Manufactures.*—There is a good corn-mill at Moffat; also a *sawing-mill* for timber, and a *fulling-mill* for cloth; with various *looms* for making stockings; and the necessary proportion of skilful tradesmen in the various branches required for the village and neighbourhood.

The straw-plait for bonnets was recommended for trial at Moffat, and no situation appears more promising. The prices have fallen much, but still the manufacture would be of some use, both for sale and for wear. The material is cheap, and the labour is manual, so that it well deserves to be tried, and to meet encouragement. In the cleanly houses at Moffat, the young women might do something at bonnet-making, while the elder females worked at spinning and netting into stockings, of strong woollen yarn, or at any other work that can be furnished, so as to give them the credit and comfort of doing something for their own support,—an object of great importance and of growing necessity.

*Agricultural Society.*—There is a *farming association* here, which, by stimulating attention to the improvement of stock, has been very useful, even at a time rather inauspicious. When the value of stock had sunk so far in proportion to that of money, as to render the payment of rents, without considerable abatement, hardly practicable; even in these circumstances the intrinsic value of stock has been considerably improved, in consequence of the public notice excited by this Association.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Town, Market, &c.*—The police of the town was lately very inadequate; but has been improved by the nomination of special constables and peace-officers. There are two residing magistrates in Moffat, and the court of Justices meets there once a-month. There is a weekly market; but it were better if it were to be held only once a-month, when, of course, it would be more fully attended.

*Means of Communication.*—The means of communication are excellent in the directions of Glasgow and Carlisle, and also towards Dumfries and Edinburgh. The road also to Selkirk by the lakes is good; but though another line has been opened by Hutton, branching to Eskdalemuir, or to Dunnabie, the road to Lochmaben is still imperfect, and a direct line to Closeburn is wanting. An assorting *Post-Office* at Moffat is well kept and very useful, but a post conveyance by Lochmaben to Annan is still wanted. The

mail-coach lines are only about 16 miles long within the parish; all the roads and bridges are kept in safe order, and coaches cross one another daily in each of the lines to Glasgow and Edinburgh.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church was rebuilt in 1790, and, by the liberality of James Earl of Hopetoun, it was put down on some ground of his own among aged and venerable trees, in a most appropriate site, and not in the church-yard. His Lordship also made the building larger and handsomer at his own expense. It accommodates about a thousand sitters; and contains two square seats allotted for strangers, and also a few pews for the poor. The manse was built in 1771, and an addition to it in 1810. The glebe is let at L. 25 rent; and the stipend is now 17 chalders, or for the present year, L. 240 Sterling. In the continued indisposition of the Rev. Mr Johnston, he allows a sum for the regular services of the pulpit, which are performed by Mr Wilson, preacher of the Gospel. The parish church is attended by about 335 families; and the number of communicants in the sacrament of the Lord's supper is seldom under and sometimes above 500.

There is a Burgher meeting-house in Moffat; but it cannot be very fully attended, or endowed, as only a small proportion of the parishioners are dissenters.

*Religious Societies.*—There have been two religious or Bible associations in Moffat for many years; one female and one male. These have contributed regularly for sacred purposes. A Sabbath-school is taught in the afternoon, and well attended in the parish church. The collections at the parish church are respectable, and are supported by liberal contributions from the heritors; there being many poor in Moffat, and a great want of employment for the industrious poor, especially in winter. Farmers are not made liable for one-half the sums yearly assessed, most of the heritors paying the whole for their land. The collections at the meeting-house cannot be very great.

*Education.*—No situation appears more favourable than Moffat for the purposes of education. A boarding and day-school for girls would be very convenient, if all the branches they required could be well taught in the village. There are some arrangements in view as to the two principal schools, of which it were premature to mention particulars; only a conjoined seminary, out of both as an academy, would be very beneficial, and might also be expected soon to prosper. In the meantime, a subscription-school is well and



ably taught, though not very well attended ; and there are various other schools in the place.

*Charitable Institutions, &c.*—The Female Benevolent Society has done much good ; a friendly society did not succeed, nor a parish bank, chiefly from the low rate of interest. One of these might now be tried again, with the aid and concurrence of David Jardine, Esq. agent for the Glasgow Union Bank, as he could transact without the former expense and risk of money-carriage, and that bank allows a half per cent. of interest more than some others.

*Poor.*—The funds of the poor consist of about L. 50 per annum from church collections, from L. 50 to L. 60, which arise from legal assessments, and of contributions over and above to the amount of about L. 20. The number of claimants is about 50.

*Fuel.*—The fuel mostly used is coal, from Douglas ; and the price per hundred weight in Moffat 10d. to 1s.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

*A comparison of the present state of things with what it was about forty years ago* may be considered as one of the most interesting objects of this new series of statistical reports.

Since the last Statistical Account was written, not only the population, as before shewn, has greatly increased, but the land rents have risen from L. 3300 to about L. 8000 ; while in the country part of the parish most of the *farm-houses and offices* have been rebuilt, and a large extent of stone fences erected. Many of the cottages have been rebuilt also ; and most of these have been covered with slate roofs, as the farm-houses and offices have been. Around the village, important and attractive improvements have taken place. The lands have not only been improved, but villa buildings have been erected on a plan combining ornament with comfort ; at the same time, many new houses have been erected ; one of which, now constructing by Mr Macmillan, merchant, is on a very superior plan. The church has been rebuilt, and the parish school. The new baths have been erected on a superior plan, with reading-room and bowling-green. The meal-house and market have been opened up ; a square in the centre of the village has also been opened with plenty of the finest spring water, in a cistern for public use. The streets are always kept in comfortable order ; there is a regular market for beef and mutton ; mail-coaches pass and re-pass daily, and post horses and carriages may be hired at the principal inn ; all the roads and bridges communicating with Moffat are now good, safe,

and easy; and the lodgings for strangers are much improved, affording also far more extensive accommodation. Even the public roads and walks around the village have been considerably improved. Nuisances of all sorts are carefully interdicted, and measures taken generally for making such important and extensive improvements, as have raised the character of Moffat to be one of the most attractive watering villages, and one of the most comfortable places of residence; and these improvements being under the eye as well as the patronage of the family of Annandale, who take pleasure, and have an interest, in the property of Moffat, there is no doubt of their being carried on as far as the public ought to expect.

In the cultivation of the arable soils a very great improvement has been made; and, by removing obstructions, duly manuring and working the lands, observing a proper improved rotation, and keeping down or destroying noxious weeds,—and farther, by cultivating the most valuable crops, it is not too much to say, that within forty years the returns of the arable soils have become far better, as well as more abundant. The single practice of feeding off sheep on turnip lands has been of incalculable benefit.

As to *stocks*, if the village cows be excepted, which are pastured, it is believed, in too great numbers, and if we also except some of the cottagers' cows, the quality of the cattle has been very much improved, and the sheep stocks perhaps even more so, within the last forty years; and whatever the prices may now be, affected as these are by various causes, and among others by the state of the currency, the improvement in quality has been certain and extensive.

Let any one now look into the cottages, and he will find them nearly or fully as comfortable as the farm-houses were forty years ago; and let him compare the dress of the cottagers and their mode of living with that of the farmers at the above distance of time, he will find that at present they are not greatly inferior.

And yet it is certain there is a tendency to depression, chiefly arising out of want of employment and reduced rates of wages, both of which are partly to be ascribed to the influx of labourers from Ireland; the remedy for which is neither very easy nor very obvious. The wandering poor are now sent to individual houses to be supplied with necessaries, and forwarded to the places to which they belong; but they are not encouraged, as formerly, to wander across the country, and to haunt any where in it at their

own discretion. Accordingly, the system of *public begging* having thus become less easy and less profitable, it is hoped that many of the wandering poor have returned to the places where they are known, and that some of them have resumed habits of industry, for their numbers have been reduced in this neighbourhood; and this ought to enable the farmers and others, who formerly were subjected to such a burden, to give more liberally into the collections for the parish poor.

The practice of irrigation has not been much tried in this parish, perhaps on account of the sheep stocks, and the suspicion that rot among them would follow. But if lands are not watered in summer, this does not happen; and there is no danger at all if the water be not laid on before Michaelmas, nor continued past the first week of April.

Another mode of improving soft meadows,—by draining, levelling, and liming the soil, is of great importance; and as it requires above L. 5 per acre, landholders would act wisely in allowing the cost and carriage of lime, provided the meadows were not to be broken up, and were to be generally kept in pasturage, and not to be cut for hay above once in the three years. This plan would answer well with the new system of half-bred lambs, which has paid so abundantly hitherto; and in order to carry it on to more advantage, a part of the hill grounds might farther be enclosed off, and improved in cultivation; and by laying down well-limed into rich grass, to feed them to more advantage, and in quietness and seclusion from the other stocks. This would pay well, and furnish also useful employment, and at least 500 acres might thus be added to the lands in culture, perhaps even twice that extent.

Of building materials at Moffat, the blue whinstone is particularly valuable; it cuts better than granite, and lasts almost as long; it is so hard that the workmen strike fire with steel from it; they raise and dress it in pieces of convenient thickness, and it looks beautiful in front of a building, and turns damp off it, if well-jointed and laid. Sandstone, and even Portland stone, are hardly thought equal to this blue whin, the finer variety of which has to be carried some distance to Moffat. It is that variety of the greywacke through which the quartz solution appears to have diffused itself, and which renders it so hard and so durable.

There is a heavy red clay near Moffat, which, before the use of lime, was commonly used in building. It is a fire-clay,—stands well at the back of chimneys, and was used for making the brick

of which the Spur Inn was built, about 70 years ago. A trial has been made of some of this clay near the town-head for bricks, but it has not answered so well, and perhaps there may be some difference in the quality, or defect in the trials last made.

One accommodation is much wanted still by farmers, a cool *shade in hot weather* for cattle and sheep, in some lofty situation, and at the same time quite accessible. Plantations collect and multiply flies, instead of protecting the stocks; lofty and shady trees are much preferable. Water is of use to black cattle against vermin, if deep enough for the tip of their tails to reach it. In some cases a moveable shed might be of great advantage. Sheep are commonly sent in hot weather to higher cooler pastures.

It may be remarked, that *many substances* might be applied to useful purposes, but are entirely *neglected*. The bark of the alder tree dyes black, and the wood of it burnt into charcoal makes the finest gunpowder. These are only mentioned as mere samples of that callous inattention and negligence, by which advantages are thrown away. The dye-stuff mosses, which are to be found in abundance on the rocks and trees, are equally neglected, though in a country less informed (in the remote Highlands) the use of these, and of alder-bark, and of heath, and other native plants, has been known and attended to from a remote period of time.

The best *walks* for visitants at Moffat at present are in the dry and well-kept public roads, but it would be a great additional comfort for them if walks were made up to the heights, and through the plantations, and so as to give walkers an opportunity of visiting the well in that direction, but not to allow of persons on horse-back taking these walks.

For the purpose of recreation, an occasional visit may be made to the old caves at Newton, cut out of the sandstone rock, and thence to the Hartfell Spa, the path leading to which is rude and romantic. A pic-nic party may have moderate exercise in another direction to Earl Randolph's Tower, taking refreshments on the moat opposite to it on Coatshill. A similar moderate degree of exercise would bring the party into Craigieburn wood, where there is a charming glade for a place of refreshment. The Bell Craig Rock and Linn deserve and will reward a similar visit. Any of these moderate excursions may be accomplished betwixt the hours of breakfast and dinner. But if more distant places are deemed proper to be visited, the Gray Mare's Tail, after a fall of rain, will repay the trouble of a visit, or, if the visitor be inclined to

go farther to see the lakes and the river Yarrow, the little tower of Dryhope may also be seen, (in the distance at least,) where tradition has said that *Mary Scott* was born. If the summit of Hartfell be the object, it may be ascended nearly all the way on horseback by the farm of Newton. A more distant excursion to the summit of Queensberry will be rewarded by a rich and beautiful view; but let the riders beware of sinking among some green spots on the way. Fishers may wish to visit Lochskeen, and to feast on the delicate trout of that alpine lake, and their way is by the Birkhill cottage, where they will find accommodation and directions. In all of these walks the lover of nature and of natural history, especially the botanist and mineralogist, will be richly gratified.

*January 1834.*

# PARISH OF KIRKPATRICK-JUXTA.

PRESBYTERY OF LOCHMABEN, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.

THE REV. DR SINGER, MINISTER.

---

## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name, Boundaries, &c.*—THE ancient name of this parish was Kilpatrick; now it is Kirkpatrick-Juxta, as being nearer to the capital of Scotland than Kirkpatrick-Fleming, Kirpatrick-Durham, and Kirpatrick-Irongray, all of which appear to have derived their names from the famous missionary. He was a native of Scotland, who at the call of Celestine, Bishop of Rome, went to Ireland in 432, laboured there with eminent success during forty years, and left a name highly regarded both in Ireland and in the south and west of Scotland.

The *form* of this parish is irregular, being bounded on the east and north by Wamphray and Moffat; on the N. W. and west by Crawford and Closeburn, and on the south by Johnstone parish. It contains very nearly 33 square miles, or about 21,000 English acres. In the county map, the lands of Whiteholm, being in the county of Lanark, were not included.

The *mountain range* of Queensberry on the west runs irregularly northward; another range of lower hills on the east extends in a parallel direction, between 2 and 3 miles distant; and between these ranges, is the pastoral valley of Kinnel Water. Betwixt the latter hilly range and the river Annan, the tract of ground is nearly 2 miles broad and 8 miles long; and this consists of hill and vale, and constitutes most of the richer and more valuable portion of the parish. It is mostly arable, though about one-tenth of the whole is either rocky, or consists of lands formerly moor, but now improved, or of peat-moss either cut for fuel or converted into meadow land.

*Meteorology.*—The temperature has improved sensibly by the draining of mossy sheep-walks and cultivation of waste lands. The most frequent rains are from the S. W., and the most violent wind

from the west. The climate at Moffat is so nearly the same as in this parish, that one set of observations may suit both. Snow lies long at times, (the distance from the sea being above 20 miles,) though the bottom of the vale is not much elevated,—only about 350 feet. Peat-bogs never produce ague, as clay bogs do; and being mostly drained, they do not send out so great masses of vapour as formerly.

*Diseases.*—Vaccination is generally practised, and yet vagrants carry about their children when ill of small-pox, or just recovered. Rheumatism is not unfrequent, There was no instance of *spasmodic cholera* last year in this parish, though many premonitory symptoms occurred, and one case of British cholera proved fatal.

Many of the people attain the *age* of 80 years, and some have exceeded 90,—one or two arriving at 96 in the course of the last 30 years. The *climate* is considered very healthy, like that of the neighbouring parish of Moffat.

*Hydrography*—The *springs*, issuing commonly from gravelly soils, are very pure; but near the bases of the high mountains, where there is a soil impregnated with iron, and also in some other places, the springs are *chalybeate*. Near Garpel Water there is a very strong chalybeate, not issuing from the earth as a spring, but formed in pools by solution in warm weather, when the rain water imbibes and dissolves iron and alum from the clay. The village of Moffat was lately accommodated with *pipes* conveying to it abundance of water of the purest quality from the farm of Chapel in this parish, and carried below the bed of Annan. The *rivers* are not considerable; the *Kinnell* passes from north to south. The *Evan* runs between two low hill ranges, both of which may be cultivated or planted. The *Annan* enters the parish from that of Moffat, forming a boundary. The *Garpel* forms a cascade near the old castle of *Achincass*, and falls into the Evan. The *Annan*, *Evan*, and *Moffat Waters*, unite their streams, and form one river about 90 feet broad, below the village of Moffat, and running on a gravelly bottom, with a current of moderate velocity. The river *Annan*, after leaving the confines of this parish, increases considerably, receiving other streams on both sides, and falling into the Solway Firth, near the royal burgh of *Annan*, after a course of about 30 miles.

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—A survey was published of the mineralogical structure of Dumfries-shire by Professor Jameson; and observations were made thereon, in the *Edinburgh Review*, a con-

siderable number of years ago. The late General Dirom of Mount Annan enriched Mr Crawford's map of the county with a description of the minerals, both in the higher and lower districts, referring to a letter addressed to him by Dr Walker, and to "Miscellanea Scotica," published in 1710, and to some notices in Pennant's tour; also to a practical survey by Messrs Bushby, which, not having been published by the gentlemen of the county, was added by the author of this article to his agricultural survey of Dumfries-shire in 1811. Some further observations occur on the mineralogy of the county, in the article Dumfries-shire in the Edinburgh Encyclopædia. In this parish no *freestone* quarries have been worked; but there are quantities of trap-rock, and of greywacke, or blue stone, which are used for the purpose of common building. Masses of loose rocks appear on various lands, and especially on the lands of Craiks Craigs; but on the bottom of Evan, or others of these rivers, the *foetz trap* rocks appear stratified, and their dip is commonly to the south and west, and nearly vertical, occasionally discovering calcareous spar intermixed. There is no solid *granite* rock in the parish or the county; nor have any *ores* or fossil remains worth notice been discovered.\*

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

There is a county map which was executed by Mr Crawford about thirty years ago, at the expense of the landholders. The names of the heritors, taken in the order corresponding with the extent and value of their estates, are as under, viz. Mr Hope Johnstone of Annandale, M. P.; his Grace the Duke of Buccleuch; Miss Munro Johnstone of Corehead; Lieutenant-General Sharpe of Hoddam, -M. P.; Mr Younger of Craigielands; the heirs of Mr Paterson of Langbedholm; and Mr Tweedie of Oliver.

*Parochial Registers.*—The parish register has been long continued, but with one considerable space of time blank when it was neglected. The first volume begins in 1692, when Mr Thomas Goldie was ordained, and extends to 1697. The second volume begins in 1736, when Mr William Scott was ordained, and extends to 1755, and thence the record extends to 1769 and 1787. The late Mr Scott carried it to 1799, from which time it has been continued to this year. It contains a record of births and mar-

\* *Zoology and Botany.*—For the Zoology and Botany of this parish, reference is made to those Articles in the Account of Moffat.



riages, but not of deaths,—with a general view of the funds allotted for the poor. A smaller book is also kept for inserting the collections and distributions.

*Antiquities.*—The ruins of the old castle of *Achincass* are very ancient, and of considerable extent still, though much dilapidated. It belonged to Randolph Earl of Murray, Regent of Scotland in the minority of David Bruce, and was at another time the property of the Douglasses of Morton. The tower of Lochhouse belonged to the Johnstones of Corehead. There was lately one vaulted ruin at Kinnelhead, and there is still another at Boreland. Several *moats* exist in this parish, as to which tradition is silent. The vestiges of a camp, in the line of the old Roman way, passing up Annandale towards Crawford, may still be traced in some places.

*Modern Buildings.*—These are constructed of stone and lime, and most of them are covered with roof-slate,—very few being now thatched with straw, or covered as formerly with freestone flags. Mr Younger of Craigiellands has built a comfortable house, and cased the walls of it with Moffat blue whinstone. The Duke of Buccleuch has lately erected superior farm-buildings on his lands in this parish, at an expense of from three to four years of the respective rentals, and on a liberal and well-arranged plan.

### III.—POPULATION.

In the year 1755, according to Dr Webster, the population was	794
but this number is thought incorrect.	
1790,	617
1811,	596
1821,	821
1831,	981
In the villages the residents amount to about	80
And in the country to about	901
	Total,
	981
Number of blind,	2
of deaf and dumb,	5
The average number of births for 7 years is,	23
of marriages,	8
The number of deaths has not been ascertained.	
The number of families in the parish is,	169
Whereof are chiefly employed in agriculture,	73
In trade, manufactures, and handicraft,	40
And not included in any of these classes,	56
The average number of children in each family is	5 $\frac{1}{8}$ $\frac{5}{8}$

*Resident Landed Proprietors.*—Only one heritor, the late Mr

Paterson, resides constantly in the parish. At present Mr Younger only resides for about half the year.

*Land-Rents.*—The lowest rental of a proprietor is L. 150 ; one rental is above L. 600 ; another above L. 1000 ; and the highest above L. 2000. The whole are about L. 5000.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

##### *Agriculture and Rural Economy.*—

The number of acres at any time in tillage is about	7000
Never in tillage,	14,000
	21,000
Of which there there might still be tilled or planted, at least	2000
In undivided common there are	0
In woods or plantations of Scotch fir, larch, and spruce, oak, and ash, also a few beeches and elms, &c, about	230

*Rent, Wages, Prices, &c.*—The average of *arable land* per acre may be worth L. 1 of rent ; good hill pasture, 5s. ; inferior, 2s. per acre. The *grazing* of an ox or cow for summer costs L. 3, exclusive of winter fodder, which costs L. 4 more. The year's grazing of a full-grown sheep is 5s. on the mountain pastures : and may cost 10s. when fed and fattened in the low districts. A man's days *wages* in summer are 1s. 6d. ; in winter, 1s. to 1s. 2d. A tradesman expects about one-third more than a labourer. *Coal* carried and put down here costs per cwt. from 10d. to 1s. : *Peats*, per cart load, made, carried, and delivered, 2s. 6d. or 3s. *Larch timber*, per cubic foot in the wood, costs 1s. 2d. : *Oak and ash*, per foot in the wood, from 1s. 10d. to 2s. 3d. : *Butter* per lb. of 24 oz. in summer, 1s. : *Cheese* per lb. of 24 oz. avoirdupois, 4d. to 6d. : *Beef* or *mutton* per lb. of 16 oz. about 5d. : *Wool* per stone, of 24 lb. coarse, 7s. to 9s. ; fine, 16s. to 20s. : A *male farm-servant's wages* for the year are from L. 10 to L. 12 : A *female farm-servant's wages* for the year, from L. 6 to L. 7.

*Breeds of Cattle and Sheep, &c.*—The breed of *Galloway cattle* has been greatly improved of late. The breeds of Cheviot and black-faced *sheep* have also been improved.

The improvement of the *lands in tillage*, by draining, fencing, manuring, and green crops, has of course tended materially to improve the live stock ; and the same effect has been promoted in a different manner by such farmers as had it in their power to raise hay by *irrigation*.

*Leases, &c.*—The general duration of *leases* for arable farms is

from 15 to 21 years; and for sheep farms, 13 years.—The farm-buildings and fences are in a constant state of progressive improvement.

*Obstacles to Improvement.*—The *obstacles* to improvement have chiefly arisen out of the fall in all the prices of land produce, which has been about one-third; while rents, paid in money at old rates, continued the same, and abatements were not always given fully to compensate for this deficiency in the returns. There seems also to be an increasing deficiency in the circulating medium to answer the purposes of an augmented commerce and population. The most threatening obstacle to agriculture in Britain is the dangerous and erroneous idea, that poor soils ought not to be cultivated. Now, about three-fourths of the corn lands of Britain were poor soils at one time; and some of these have become rich by manures and culture; and to what subject is it possible to apply capital and industry to more advantage than in the improvement of barren moor and moss, turning the former into cultivated fields, and the latter into meadow? The most useful employment is here conjoined with the means of obtaining subsistence for the labourers, as well as for the community; and the permanent returns from and value of the land are steadily advanced.

The last corn law, by admitting grain at all times, and letting it out when the prices are high, has prevented all cause of alarm, and has also preserved the prices at a moderate and rather equal rate, allowing them even to fall too low. The rash project of abolishing this law, trusting to foreign supplies, and throwing the poor lands out of cultivation, is fraught with ruin to the capital, the industry, and the resources of the kingdom.

Let the currency be made safe, but allowed to circulate in sufficient abundance; let the land produce as well as manufacturing produce be duly protected; and let the corn laws encourage a liberal and extended cultivation; and in the nature of things all classes will find the benefit. Then give a preference to home produce in the granaries and markets of the kingdom, and it will become plentiful and cheap also; but let foreign produce pay duty when imported, and the merchants will purchase home-grown as well as foreign corn. The dread of constant and speculative interference with that industry which it requires long time to establish,—indeed the very proposal of interference made by men in public office or station, and not discouraged, has a most pernicious effect

on the public mind. It paralyses industry, deranges improvement, withdraws capital, and renders experience and skill of little use.

*Modern Improvements.*—The use of bone manure for turnip land, and the feeding off of turnips with sheep, are two capital improvements on dry land; and the culture of peat-mosses to be laid down to meadows, and irrigated if possible, is another. Industry is necessary to keep up the fertility even of rich lands, along with capital and skill. All these, and the most productive modes of industry, together with the subsistence and independence of the nation, would be endangered by relaxing the agriculture of these kingdoms.

*Produce.*—The gross produce of the whole parish from sheep and cattle, as well as corn lands, has been computed at about L. 13,000, and the rent being L. 5000, is above the usual proportion, but abatements of rent have been allowed.—The returns of course vary according to seasons and prices, and they have altered much in the present year, grain having fallen much in value, and the produce from sheep and wool having risen. The following table can only be considered as approximating to the average returns, viz. :

From sheep and wool at 7s. 6d. each, of 9000,	-	L. 3350
From fat and young cattle yearly sales, about	-	4250
From swine, dairy produce, and poultry, about	-	2650
From corn and hay sold off the lands,	-	2300
		<hr/>
		L. 12550
From timber, potatoes, &c. say	-	450
		<hr/>
The total returns coming to about		L. 13000

There have been so many abatements of land rent allowed, as to show the necessity of lowering those lands not recently taken. These abatements have run at an average to about 20 per cent.; and on this computation the net rental extends only to L. 4000 a-year. Most of the land rents of this parish being carried out of it and spent elsewhere, it stands greatly in need of such fostering attentions and improvements as landholders can give to its growing agriculture, by roads, fences, manures, buildings, and encouraging leases.

*Multures.*—Relief may be had for servient lands under the statute; but landholders commonly relieve tenants of multures to their own mills, leaving them at liberty to go to any mill. Still, the tacksmen of the mills have some understanding with one another as to the charges of grinding as well as kiln-drying; of which

last duty the millers ought to be relieved; and then a fortieth of the oatmeal would compensate for grinding oats, and a fixed price might be given for wheat and barley. But in all cases the dust and offals should belong to the farmer, who should also see his grain dried first and next ground, so as to know the precise outcome, and of course the true value.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Markets, &c.*—Moffat, at the distance of three miles from the centre of this parish, possesses a post-office and weekly market; and also March and October fairs, with a cattle and sheep show and sale in September. The only regular *village* is Craighielands, built by Mr Younger some years ago, to accommodate the people on his lands, consisting of neat small buildings, on a regular plan, for 12 families,—the rent being only interest on the outlay.

*Means of Communication.*—There is one turnpike road from Glasgow to Carlisle, and another intersecting it at Beattock Inn, from Dumfries to Edinburgh, with mail-coaches daily on both lines. The parish roads are mostly in a decent state of repair. An excellent inn was erected near Beattock, on the lands of the Duke of Buccleuch, which was paid for as public accommodation by the Treasury, and is kept in a superior and most satisfactory manner by a respectable family, who came to it from England. The length of the turnpike lines in this parish is about 20 miles; but no railways or steam-carriages have yet been introduced, nor any canal, though all these have been spoken of. The bridges are kept in a safe and decent condition. The fences are good, so far as they consist of regular walls, built of good stone, and to the due height of at least five feet; but where the soil is light and gravelly, it does not bear them so well as beech hedges, in either of which it has been found that gaps may be filled by cuttings of elder or bower-tree.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The *parish church* is conveniently situated, was built in 1799, and thoroughly repaired in 1824, accommodating from 500 to 600 persons; and the communion table not being appropriated, affords at least 50 free sittings. The manse is about 40 years old, was never very sufficient, but has been at different times repaired. The teinds were surrendered in lieu of stipend in 1805, and, including meal, lambs, and wool, payable in kind, they come generally to about L.220 of stipend, exclusive of L. 8, 6s. 8d. contributed for element-money by voluntary agreement. The

glebe contains about four acres arable, and five acres meadow, moss, and garden, with policy; and the whole is worth L. 10 a-year. The legal right to grass, in addition, has never been prosecuted for, nor made good to the minister, nor an equivalent asked.

There is no chapel of ease, nor dissenting meeting-house; nor are there above four or five families of dissenters or seceders within this parish, which contains not one Catholic residenter, nor one of the Episcopal persuasion. The number of communicants is about 380, out of 981 people,—not including strangers who join in that ordinance.

*Religious Societies.*—There is a Bible Society, which is renewed every three years, whose little funds go to various religious purposes. A weekly prayer meeting has been long in existence, and is attended by a few of the heads of families.

*Education* is regularly conducted in two parochial and two contribution schools; and there are also three other inferior schools in the parish,—the whole of them affording instruction to above 200 children. The salary of the first parish schoolmaster is L. 34, 4s. 4d. being the value of the maximum of two chalders, and that of the second school, where the teacher labours during pleasure, not being regularly settled, is equal to one chalder, L. 17, 2s. 2d. The school fees are very moderate, and cannot exceed from L. 15 to L. 20 a-year in each of the three principal schools, exclusive of Candlemas presents, being about L. 3 in each of them.

*Friendly Societies, &c.*—A friendly society, constituted on principles too flattering to be implemented, and a bank for savings, were both lately dissolved, the interest being small, and the Dumfries banks remote, with some risk and expense in remittances.

*Poor.*—The regular number on the poor's list varies from 8 to 10 or 12; and there are several, indeed many others, who need incidental aid in various ways for themselves and their children. The average yearly amount of church collections for the poor is about L. 30. The average allowance for those on the regular list is rather above L. 4 a-year to each. The collections do not suffice without voluntary contributions, in which none of the heritors are deficient, the principal heritor setting an example; and, in years of emergency, such as 1800, subscriptions and contributions being made by the heritors and parishioners voluntarily; so that no regular assessments are necessary for the support of the poor.

Above L. 52 in whole are distributed annually; the heritors contributing about ten shillings for every L. 100 land rent, which, with the collections, answer in ordinary years. A general contribution takes place in emergent seasons.

*Inns.*—The parish contains one good inn, and two other licensed alehouses.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

*Improvements.*—The improvements made since 1800 have been very remarkable, chiefly in the church, the schools, the farm-buildings, the roads, fences, and lands. It is not less remarkable on the dress of the people; and has also been considerable in their mode of living. The people are still regular in administering to persons in want among themselves, though far more to unknown beggars and vagrants. Some regulations against common begging have been lately adopted, but, owing to the want of co-operation, have been given up again.

*Lime and Coal.*—Lime and coal are still very distant; the nearest lime above 20, and the nearest coal 30, miles; and sandstone is not worked nearer than 12 miles. The trials for coal have never been made to a satisfactory depth in any part of this county, except where it has been found and worked, at Sanquhar and Canobie.

The following notices may be added, *1st*, In 1637, James Johnstone of Corehead resided at Lochhouse, and having married Miss Whiteford, only child of the Bishop of Brechin, also parson of Moffat, he led a valuation of the teinds of his own lands and of those of the bishop in this parish, and in that of Moffat, only four years after the act 1633, allowing such valuations to be made once for all; an act to which the improvement of lands in Scotland is greatly owing.—*2d*, The body of Mr John Taylor, formerly minister of Wamphray, was conveyed to and buried in, this parish; a party of Highlanders, on their way to England, under the officers of Charles Edward, met the procession, uncovered in passing, but sent back a detachment after the funeral was decently concluded, and seized on some horses.—*3d*, *Dumgree* was at one time a parish, but was annexed partly to Johnstone and chiefly to Kirkpatrick-Juxta, within which the unenclosed churchyard of Dumgree now lies.—*4th*, The old church was covered with heath in the time of Mr George Buchanan, who was minister in 1626. It had been from end to end a burying-place before the Reformation; but

the dust and bones which it became necessary to remove at the last reparation were carefully and decently deposited in another place on the outside of the church.—5th, In 1803, when a volunteer force was of such eminent service for the peace and defence of the kingdom, this parish met for prayer and conference, and offered one man for every eight persons of the whole population to serve as volunteers in arms, above eighty men holding up their hand to give this pledge, and with hardly any distinction between church-going people and dissenters. The parish of Moffat soon after met and offered 120 men. Then followed the parish of Wamphray, offering 60; and Johnstone thereafter met and agreed to a similar offer. After the volunteer force of the nation had risen in arms, there appeared no longer any signs of internal disaffection. The minister for Scotland, the late Lord Melville, had foreseen this happy result; and the venerated monarch happily authorized that important and salutary measure, which prevented invasion as well as disturbance.—6th, When the *London Missionary Society* was first set on foot, the late minister of this parish remitted to it a collection of L. 30. This parish has contributed also to most of the religious and charitable purposes recommended by a promise of usefulness, and in particular to such as were supported by the countenance of the General Assembly of this church, as the *Highland schools*, to which L. 15 were first remitted; the Indian mission, to which L. 8 were first sent, with annual sums thereafter; the *colonial churches* also in America, to which, and to other charities, various remittances went from this parish.—7th, The poor had great need of support in 1800, when oat-meal sold for 7s. per stone,—and also in 1812 and 1817. But the parishioners gave support: and a generous donation of L. 300 to the poor by Mr William Marchbank, at Upper Murthat, (after deducting L. 30 for duty,) afforded L. 76 in 1817 alone, and liberal aid for other seven years following, when employment was scarce; until, as he ordered, it was all applied, and the special accounts preserved and exhibited.—8th, The late Mrs Milligan Johnstone of Corehead settled L. 35 as a *fund of charity*, which the minister accumulated to L. 90, and which is now lent on bond to a distinguished family, who allow interest at the rate of five per cent. for it. This is the only fund of the poor at interest here.—9th, The greatest *desiderata* in this parish are proper *clumps of trees* in the sheep-walks, to shelter the stock, ornament the country, and furnish weedings and thinnings for use. Some parts appear



eminently suited to this mode of improvement, stones abounding for the fences;—and ferns or brakens, indicating a dry and deep soil, adapted exceedingly for forest trees. It would be highly useful and pleasing also to see fruit-trees in most of the gardens of the farmers and cottagers, and it is hoped this will soon take place, and that landholders will encourage it. The want of osiers and willows for baskets may be soon and easily supplied, as cuttings may be had gratis for this purpose from the minister's lands. To open up the best quarries for building stones, especially such as Lochhouse Craig, would be of use, and chiefly if good freestone were thus worked in a near and convenient place. The road across the hills to the lime-works at Closeburn, if made, would be of great advantage not only to this parish, but to the country generally; and especially if, as part of this line, a road were made from *Dumcrieff bridge in an equal slope to Bodisbeck height*, which would make Hawick ten or twelve miles nearer. In the course of time this road will probably be accomplished, whatever temporary difficulties may obstruct it; and it will open an intercourse from the east to the west of Scotland; and there is no question that, by dividing equally the summit elevation at Bodisbeck, along the whole slope of five miles to Dumcrieff bridge, an easy road could be formed there, which would be far better, and even more speedy than any steeper intermediate line in leading to Moffat; with the advantage of going direct across to the westward by the three river meetings on the Closeburn line, or of turning southward in the shortest and safest direction. The turnpike road for Lochmaben is incomplete, but it has been made a branch of the public lines, and ought to be completed and supported out of the general funds of the district.

The great evil of the poor system in Scotland arises out of *endless and uninterrupted public begging*; and there is no remedy but one, viz. to *enforce residence* in the parishes where the poor are known, and where they must work, and will be looked after. If residence were enforced *every where*, and settlements not acquired so easily, the poor laws of Scotland would be almost perfect; and neglect of the poor would cease where it now exists. The acts recently passed for clearing England of vagrants from Scotland and Ireland, require mutual protection to be given to Scotland, into which for some years, vagrants from England have begun to find their way, besides the hordes that infest it from Ireland.

Farmers are liable for half of what may be assessed for the poor, if landholders do not pay for them; and every liberal farmer is

prudent also when he gives in to the collections in an exemplary manner. It is very injudicious and inconsistent in those, who spend shillings weekly on vagrants, to give in only a penny each, or a halfpenny to the collection on the Lord's day. The farmers of this parish are too well informed and too liberal to act in this manner. On the high and holy duties of domestic charity, it is more blessed surely to give than to receive; and as one per cent. on the land rents almost suffices for aid to the poor, not one of whom goes out to beg, and who are all sober, and, as far as possible, industrious, and generally also contented and grateful, every advantage is reaped from the union of charity with gratitude, industry with economy; the helping hand is here welcome and effective; and if other parishes were to look to their own poor, those of this and the neighbouring parishes, would be more abundantly assisted, while protection would be afforded to the public against endless imposition, accompanied with idleness, vice, and often crime.

*February 1834.*

# PARISH OF WAMPHRAY.

PRESBYTERY OF LOCHMABEN, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.

THE REV. CHARLES DICKSON, MINISTER.

## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name, Boundaries, &c.*—THE ancient name of the parish was *Wamfry* or *Wamfray*, which appears to have been derived from the Scoto-Irish *Uamh-fri*, signifying the “den or deep glen in the forest.” Agreeably to this etymology, the site of the church and old manse is in a deep and woody recess on the south side of *Wamfray Water*. This water divides the parish almost diagonally from N. E. to S. W.; and in its winding course runs through a romantic glen, which appears formerly to have been entirely covered with wood. Nothing can be conceived more romantic and picturesque than the course of that stream, especially from the bridge, about half a mile below the present manse, to about two miles above it,—bounded as it is on both sides by high steep banks, still clad with young and very thriving woods; in some places, barricaded by shelving rocks of freestone, from which the water oozes or flows from the neighbouring fields; in others, by lofty, erect, basaltic columns, from the interstices of which may be seen frequent saplings of ash, and the whole mantled over with ivy.

The parish is bounded on the N. by Moffat; on the N. E. by Eskdalemuir; on the E. by Hutton; on the S. by Applegarth; on the W. to S. W. by Kirkpatrick-Juxta and Johnstone; from which two latter parishes it is separated by the river Annan. It is of an oblong and nearly quadrilateral figure. The average extent of the parish in length is nearly  $6\frac{1}{2}$  miles, and its breadth about 3 miles. In all, it contains about 19 square miles.

*Topographical Appearances.*—There are two mountain-ranges in the northern part of the parish, running parallel with the river Annan, and with each other, from S. S. W. to N. N. E. and varying from 1000 to betwixt 2000 and 3000 feet in height. Besides these, there are two ranges of hills nearer the south, and running

also nearly parallel with each other, from S. E. to N. W. The latter rise from 500 or 600 feet to about 1000 feet above sea level. Though some of the lower hills, and some also of the higher, approach to a conical form, yet they are chiefly tabular or ridge. Most of the low lands are on the banks of the Annan; and though there are some level tracts along it, yet they generally rise with a gentle acclivity to the ranges which run parallel with it. There are also some fine valleys more confined and secluded; especially that on the Wamphray Water above the church, where there is a number of extensive fields above its woody banks, both rich and fertile as well as beautiful. Towards the S. E. of the parish, where the hills are low and partly arable, at least yield excellent pasture, the valleys interspersed are perhaps of the deepest soil in the parish, and produce excellent crops. The lowest point in the parish is on the Annan, at the S. W. extremity, about 200 feet above sea level. And the highest point is on the N. E. extremity, where the two mountain-ranges formerly mentioned meet, and terminate at last in the same direction. It is called Lochfell. Its elevation is fully 2500 feet above the sea.

*Meteorology.*—From observations taken by Fahrenheit's thermometer at an elevation of 280 feet above sea level, and nearly 20 feet from the ground, in the shade, with a north-eastern exposure, it appears that the average temperature of the year 1830 was 46°, and that of 1831 was 52°. But as these observations were not made at exactly similar periods, and as the seasons were also of different temperatures, it may be stated that the mean temperature is 47°. The greatest height to which the thermometer was observed to rise last year was on the 31st July, when it stood at noon at 78°, and at two o'clock P. M. same day at 84°. The greatest depression in the same year at noon was on the 25th and 26th January, on both of which days it stood at 28°. Its greatest height in 1830 was on the 28th July, when at noon it stood at 81°, and betwixt two and three o'clock, P. M. same day at 83°, and its greatest depression was on the 24th December, when at noon it stood at 22°, or 10° below freezing point in the shade. The mean pressure of the atmosphere, as ascertained at the same place, but about ten feet lower, by daily observation with the barometer at noon during the last five months of 1831, gives 29.3°. The greatest variation took place in December, both the greatest and least pressure being in that month; when, on the 7th, the mercury stood at 28.5°, and at 30.3° for several days towards the end of the

month. Joining to these the two succeeding months of the present year, the average of the whole will be  $29.4^{\circ}$ .

Cold east winds prevail much in winter, especially in spring and the beginning of summer; and though then, during the day they may follow the sun, yet they too often resume that direction during the night, and being commonly accompanied with frosts, they prove very hurtful to vegetation and the blossoms of fruit-trees. It is true, indeed, that this parish, enjoying a westerly and south-westerly exposure, is in a great degree screened from their piercing cold by the large intervening hills. But when it blows hard, with snow from that quarter, we frequently feel its bitter effects, in sweeping the dry snow over the heights into the deep glens, and covering the ground where the sheep could be best sheltered from the severity of the storm; and thus, unless the shepherd has been on his guard, enveloping the unwary animals in its deep wreaths.

*Snow storm.*—This was particularly experienced in the month of March 1827, when there occurred the severest storm remembered here since 1794. The snow adhering to the top and branches of trees, and freezing immediately, bent them downwards with its weight, and the wind afterwards acting upon them with force made great destruction, especially among the Scotch, spruce, and silver fir-trees. It was a sublime sight, after the cessation of the storm, to view the avalanche formed in the deep ravine or on the banks of wood, and the shattered remains of trees appearing here and there above its surface. As the storm was renewed in all its severity on a following day of the same week, a considerable number of sheep were lost; but as every exertion was made to recover as many as possible, a great number were found under a considerable depth of snow a long time after,—some after three or four weeks, and even then living, though much weakened.

*Winds.*—The most prevalent winds, and at the same time the highest, blow from the south and south-west. These are very commonly accompanied with torrents of rain, especially after a continuance of dry weather, according to the proverb, “long foul, long fair.” The inhabitants of this parish are skilled in the usual prognostics of the weather, and especially in those afforded by the two conspicuous hills of Queensberry and Criffel.

*Climate.*—The climate is moist. And this may be accounted for by the vapours which rise from the Solway, being driven in this direction and attracted by the high hills. The farmer accordingly puts the end of his corn-stooks in one or other of these

directions, and the mason should at least lay his stones in an inclining position, to carry off the wet, which is apt to penetrate the wall. In fact, very few of our houses in either of these exposures, especially of more than one storey, are free from damp. In calm damp weather, also, we are sometimes visited with dense fogs. But with these exceptions the air is pure, and frequently bracing. The ground is dry, or where wet, it has been drained. There being no marshes or stagnant pools, the climate in general is very salubrious; and hence few or no epidemics prevail to any extent. Perhaps the most common complaints are of the inflammatory kind, arising from sudden transitions from heat to cold, and rheumatism.

*Cascades.*—There are several cascades in the parish, famous for the romantic or picturesque scenery which surrounds them. One of them, called Bell-Craig, on the northern boundaries of the parish, where it joins that of Moffat, is much visited by the fashionable parties that frequent Moffat mineral waters. There are three others not far distant from each other on the Wamphray Water, called the pot, washing-tub, and Dub's Cauldron. The grandeur of the scenery about all of these falls is much admired.

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—The rocks in this parish are chiefly of the transition or secondary class, though there are some also of the primitive formation. Their inclinations and dips are various. The rock which prevails most extensively on the lower hills towards the south of the parish, which are very green, and of a bevelled appearance, seems to be greywacke, which, when exposed to the atmosphere, crumbles down into small, hard and dry pebbly substances forming excellent materials for roads. In some places, a bastard freestone occurs, and also an appearance of limestone.

There are three kinds of soils: *1st*, The deepish holms along the Annan. *2d*, A light loam of different shades, from a bright red colour to a dark brown or even black. *3d*, Meadow ground, generally covering a light-coloured clay. The subsoil in the low ground is generally gravel or sand. Among the heights it is till, rotten whin or freestone.

*Zoology and Botany.*—The species of animals and plants are much the same as those in the neighbouring parishes. As to the former, it may be remarked, that a species of caterpillar sometimes hurts the gooseberry bushes, and the grub the oats in spring and the beginning of summer. It has also been attributed to insects

that apple-trees do not thrive well in some gardens here. But as that happens only in certain soils, it seems rather to be owing to a subsoil of ferruginous till, which is injurious to the roots. It may also be observed, that, though the wooded plantations thrive tolerably well, yet ash as an indigenous, and larch as an exotic, appear to suit our soil fully better than any other.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Eminent Characters.*—There was a celebrated clergyman in this parish, some time before the Restoration, of the name of Brown. Soon after that event he was, on account of his principles and sentiments, thrown into prison; and when, in consequence of having contracted bad health, he petitioned for a release, he was required either to languish in its unwholesome dungeon, or sign his lasting expatriation. He adopted the latter sad alternative, and retired to Holland, where he was afterwards appointed minister of the Scotch Church in Rotterdam, and continued in that office till his death. During his exile he published many voluminous works on religious subjects, which were then much read. Some of them have been lately republished in this country, and have been well received. There is also a MS. history of the Church of Scotland, written by him in Latin, and deposited in the College Library at Edinburgh,—well spoken of by those who have seen and consulted it.

This parish is also famous for being for some time the residence and the burial-place of the late Dr Rogerson of Wamphray. He appears to have been born in the parish of Johnstone, but to have spent his earlier years in this parish. \*

*Land-owners.*—Dr Rogerson is the principal proprietor. The other land-owners are the Earl of Hopetoun, who is also patron of the parish, General Sharpe of Hoddam, Mr Graham of Shaw, Mr Carruthers of Milhouses, Mr Rogerson of Girth-head, Mr Carruthers of Stenrieshill, (the three last only resident,) and Mr Proudfoot of Hazlebank. The Duke of Buccleuch, it has been lately discovered, has a large tract of hill pasture in this parish, though that land was long lost out of the county books, and paid no public dues, being joined to a farm in Moffat parish, and generally supposed to belong to that parish.

*Parochial Registers.*—There are no parochial registers in the possession of the present incumbent previous to the year 1794.

\* See Account of Johnstone.

There is indeed one of an earlier date, commencing in 1758, but it relates only to collections and matters of a pecuniary nature. There appears to have been others, but they were either destroyed or carried away during the incumbency of one Donaldson, a person of dissipated habits, who was superseded by an ordained assistant in 1794. Since that time they have been kept as regularly as circumstances will admit, or as can be expected while regular registrations are not enforced by legal enactments. It may be added, however, that we have seen five or six small books of sessional records, and we have heard of another, commencing a few years after the Revolution, and containing some registers of births. But not having yet inspected them, we cannot say whether they fill up the whole intermediate space.

*Antiquities.*—There appears to have been a Roman road for four or five miles through this parish, from north to south, near to the old road from Glasgow to Carlisle, which is still a turnpike road, and where in some places pavement stones are occasionally dug up, especially on the lower grounds, where there are a few houses forming a small village, called Gilgal or Newton. Along this line, too, there are several large stones, about five or six feet in height, fixed firmly and perpendicularly in the ground, and supposed to have been placed there by the Romans, probably for measuring distances. Several traces of camps, supposed by some to be Roman, by others British, are also visible in this parish, especially an extensive one near to the fore-mentioned road, and another at some distance behind it. \* There was also a Druidical circle, lately almost entire, on the rising ground towards the east from the church; but now the ground is ploughed, and the stones removed. Not far from it are two others of smaller dimensions.

### III.—POPULATION.

In 1755 the number of inhabitants in the parish was,	458
1791, - - - - -	487
1801, - - - - -	423
1811, - - - - -	481
1821, - - - - -	554
1831, - - - - -	580

The increase betwixt 1811 and 1821 was from the circumstance, that the late Dr Rogerson had purchased the estate of Wamphray, who, making very great improvements in building, fencing, plant-

\* For a farther description of these antiquities, see MS. of this Account among the Archives of the Church.



ing, &c. held out good encouragement to labourers, and thus induced a number to settle in the parish. From the extensive operations then carried on, there was less occasion for continued improvements, at least to a great extent, and hence the population has not increased since in the same proportion. In fact, the proprietors feel reluctant to erect any new dwellings, or to give encouragement to cottars farther than what is necessary, partly because they are aware of the difficulty of finding them employment, and from the threatened scarcity of fuel; and partly, also, from the fear of such inhabitants becoming ultimately burdens upon the parish. Of the population in 1831, there are about 500 in the country, and the remaining 80 in a village.

1. Number of families in the parish,	-	-	-	-	-	100
of families chiefly employed in agriculture,	-	-	-	-	-	50
in trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	-	-	-	-	-	23
2. Number of unmarried men, bachelors or widowers, upwards of 50 years of age, 12						
of unmarried women, including widows, upwards of 45,	-	-	-	-	-	27
3. The average number of births yearly for the last seven years,	-	-	-	-	-	16½
of deaths,	-	-	-	-	-	6
of marriages,	-	-	-	-	-	3½
4. The number of persons at present under 15 years of age,	-	-	-	-	-	229
upwards of 70,	-	-	-	-	-	16

There are nine proprietors, the yearly value of each of whose lands is upwards of L. 100 Sterling. Three only of these reside in the parish, and have extensive farms from the principal proprietor; and two of them also occupy their own properties along with these. The number of inhabited houses is at present 94.

*Character of the People.*—They are in general well acquainted with their respective professions or trades,—regular in their deportment, as well as, with some exceptions, in their attendance upon religious ordinances. As the farmers are perhaps the wealthiest in the south of Scotland, their houses are exceedingly clean and neat, and they enjoy the comforts as well as the necessaries of life. The other classes are also in general cleanly. As most of these have small pendicles of a few acres attached to their houses and gardens, they possess advantages which might otherwise be denied them. Thus enjoying the necessaries of life, they are in general contented with their situation and circumstances. We are sorry, however, to say, that a few do occasionally poach in game, especially the salmon fisheries. A check which they have lately received will, we trust, have some effect in restraining it: but till the stake-nets on the Solway at the mouth of the Annan are taken

away, and the proprietors in the upper parts of the river have more interest in discouraging it, we are afraid that poaching will continue. Our chief annoyance in this way, however, has been from large bands from the borders of England traversing the hills, making great havoc among the game, and threatening violence to any who dares to oppose them.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture and Rural Economy.*—The whole extent of the parish is about 12,000 imperial acres; of these there may be in rotation of grain and green crops, and sown down grass, or occasionally cultivated, nearly 3000 acres. The remaining 9000 are natural pasture, consisting partly of green grassy ground, and partly of heath and moss. Before the middle of the last century, the upper or higher situated farms were much more subdivided, and the cultivation extended much farther. It was at that period laid more into extensive sheep-farms; large tracts formerly bearing corn became covered with heath and coarse herbage.

Within the last fifteen years the farmers have begun to find it very profitable to break up these neglected grounds, which produce luxuriant crops of grain, and when laid down to grass, are tripled in value for the pasture of sheep. There seems no doubt that this sort of cultivation will yet be carried to a much greater extent, probably till 1200 or 1500 acres more have been gone over. The obstacle to this beneficial improvement is the distance from lime, which is from eighteen to twenty miles; but this is counterbalanced by the deep and dry quality of the soil, free of stones, and capable of producing green crops as well as oats in great abundance.

The capital, spirit, and intelligence which are now possessed by the holders of these farms, at least in this parish, will, as observed, soon render the land quite productive. Already, there are to be seen fine fields of oats and turnips enclosed among the sheep-walks, 800 feet above sea level.

There are about 250 imperial acres of planted wood, of which about 100 are Scots fir of sixty years' growth, planted by the Earl of Hopetoun when proprietor of the Wamphray estate. It is good for its age, and much used in farm-buildings, but having little *red* or *heart-wood*, cannot endure long. Within the last ten years the red-wood has increased considerably. There are adjoining the ruins of the old mansion of Wamphray a number of Scots firs of good size, generally four or five feet in circumference. These are

known to be 130 or 140 years old. They are nearly all red-wood, and the quality equal to any Baltic or Highland fir. This and other similar facts show that the Scots fir does not attain its valuable qualities till nearly a century at least. There are nearly 150 acres more of younger plantations, planted chiefly by the late Dr Rogerson, and his son the present proprietor, and also by smaller proprietors. These are chiefly larch, which are found so much more profitable at an early age. Among these, are planted firs grown from seed brought by Dr Rogerson from his estates in Poland,—the same as the Riga and Memel timber imported to Britain. It is singular enough that these plants, almost exactly similar to our Scots fir, have never thriven in any situation; and these, planted about 15 or 16 years ago, though still alive, are puny, and evidently want strength and vigour. There are 50 or 60 acres of oak and ash of natural growth, chiefly along the banks of the water and burns, which thrive very well.

There are also about 1200 acres of arable land along the Annan and Wamphray Water, which produce crops of wheat, barley, and every sort of green crop, lying from 200 to 300 feet above sea level.

*Rent of Land.*—The average rent of the acres last referred to is about 22s. per imperial acre; the remainder of the arable land, lying higher out, and which is here of inferior quality, may be generally rented at 10s. or 12s. per acre. The common leases are fifteen years; a few are nineteen. The farm-buildings and enclosures are good. The rental of the parish is about L. 4000 Sterling.

*Rate of Wages.*—Men-servants get from five to six guineas, a few L. 7, per half year; maid-servants from L. 2, 5s. to L. 3 per half year, with victuals. Common labourers have 1s. 6d. or 1s. 8d. in summer, and 1s. 2d. in winter, per day; masons, carpenters, and slaters have each 2s. 6d. in summer, and about 2s. in winter, per day, without victuals.

*Produce.*—The average amount and value of gross produce yearly raised in the parish may be as follows:

750 acres of grain of all sorts, including fodder, at L. 5 per imperial acre,	L. 3750	0	0
250 acres green crop, turnips, and potatoes, nearly in equal quantities,	1250	0	0
Hay, rye-grass, and meadow,	600	0	0
470 black-cattle, young and old, gross produce, including dairy produce, after deducting green crop and fodder at L. 2, 5s.	1057	10	0
5700 sheep, of which 1000 are black-faced, 14,700 Cheviot, gross yearly produce,	1900	0	0
Carry forward,	L. 8557	10	0

	Brought forward,	L. 8557 10 0
250 swine reared and fattened, after deduction of potatoes and grain consumed by them, there may be left for grass and trouble, &c.	L. I	
each,		250 0 0
The rearing and breeding young horses may be reckoned		150 0 0
Annual thinning and felling of woods,		65 0 0
Produce of gardens and orchards,		45 0 0
		<hr/>
		L. 9067 10 0

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Towns.*—The nearest market-towns are; Moffat, which is also the post town, seven miles distant from the centre of the parish; and Lockerby, at the distance of ten miles.

*Means of Communication.*—The place with which we have most regular communication by carriers is Dumfries. For some months past, one of the carriers has travelled to Edinburgh once in the fortnight. There are about seven or eight miles of turnpike roads, consisting chiefly of the old line of road from Glasgow to Carlisle, together with that which leaves it about the middle of the parish towards Langholm. The bridges and fences are excellent, and generally in good repair.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church is placed in a low sequestered glen, surrounded on almost all sides by high rising grounds and woody banks, and also by large ash trees within the enclosure of the church-yard. It is situated about a quarter of a mile from the manse, nearly in the centre of the parish in respect of locality, but not of the population. But though it might be more central to the population, it is not distant more than three and a half miles from the remotest of the inhabitants. It is so very old that no person can tell when it was built. It is long and narrow, being nearly 53 feet long by 18 wide; the wall at the door is 8 feet high, and the interior one foot lower than the surface. Altogether, it is damp, dirty, and disagreeable both in summer and winter,—by far the worst place of worship in the south of Scotland. The *serking* and the small wood in the roof and ceiling are entirely rotten. Yet the present incumbent has never insisted upon any partial repairs, aware that any such put upon such a building would only incur expense, and give little satisfaction. Though closely seated, it affords a confined accommodation to no more than 200 sitters, and is therefore quite insufficient for the population of the parish. Many of the smaller proprietors have not room enough for their own families, much less for their servants and cottars; and Lord Hopetoun, the patron, and a considerable proprietor, has only accommodation

for nine sitters. In fact, all who see our church express their surprise that heritors so wealthy, and in general so spirited, should allow such an insufficient and disagreeable building to stand.

The manse is good and tolerably substantial. It was built in 1798, and underwent considerable repairs in 1825, when the present incumbent succeeded to the living. On the whole, it is a commodious and comfortable house. The glebe is small, consisting of high ground now well sheltered by good thorn-hedges. It is supposed to be about eight or nine Scotch acres, or about eleven imperial ones, though its boundaries have never been clearly ascertained. It appears that about eight or ten years after the Revolution there was no glebe; or at least what had formerly been glebe was occupied by the principal proprietor, and the then incumbent threatened to employ, if he did not actually employ, legal means to have a portion allotted to him. Though there are church lands in the parish, yet there evidently appears to have been no designation of a grass glebe; and though it has been greatly improved of late, it is still far below the average value and extent of the other glebes in the Presbytery. Its yearly value may be about L. 12 Sterling.

The stipend, as augmented in 1830, is fifteen chalders, half oat-meal and half barley,—or, converted into the fiar, L. 253, 13s. 4d., exclusive of L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements.

There is a meeting-house in the parish belonging to the Relief denomination, and built about fifty years ago. The congregation are supplied at present by a worthy person as their pastor, who has a few hearers in this parish, as well as from the surrounding ones. As these are not very numerous nor wealthy, L. 80 is supposed to be the nominal stipend, but the real amount is much less. It arises from seat rents, collections, &c. The dissenting minister has also a good garden, and a piece of land as grass for a cow.

Eighty-six families out of a hundred attend the Established church; at which there are about 170 communicants; five families are partly Burghers; nine families belong to the Relief persuasion.

*Education.*—There is in the parish only one school, at which are taught, besides the ordinary branches, Latin, Greek, and French. The schoolmaster's salary is the maximum, with legal accommodations. The late schoolmaster, after a long and efficient service, retired about eight years ago, and now retains L. 20 of the salary. The remaining L. 14, as well as the house and garden, are given to the present schoolmaster, who has also the school fees, which

may amount at an average to L. 25 more. It is attended by all the young persons in the parish, except a very few in the extremities, who are nearer schools in other parishes, also two or three families of shepherds, whose children, especially in winter, are either taught at home by their parents, or have a young lad engaged among them, who goes to each family a short time in rotation, and takes his pupils along with him. They all appear very much alive to the benefits of education. There are none, old or young, but can read, and few that cannot write.

*Literature.*—There are no parochial or other circulating libraries. But one has lately been originated in the neighbouring parish of Johnstone, from which a few get books; and there is another at Moffat, to which a number in this parish subscribe. It has been long established, and contains many valuable books. Neither are there any scientific or literary societies, unless what is called a debating society, if it may be so denominated, which meets occasionally, and is composed chiefly of tradesmen and labourers in this and the surrounding parishes.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid is 12, and there are some others who receive occasional assistance. The greater proportion of the poor on the session roll are partially supplied by their relations. They all have free houses, which are kept in repair for them. Potatoes, and a portion of peat-moss for fuel, are allotted to each of them, and about one-half of their number have also money allowed for digging their peats. In summers not well fitted for drying them, coals or money are given them. In general they receive only about 6s. or 8s. per quarter of money, with some farther allowances occasionally in the interval. On the whole, though much money may not be distributed among them, yet, with equivalents, they are in general kept tolerably comfortable, and none of them have occasion to beg. There are some besides who have free houses given them, chiefly by Dr Rogerson. The church collections for the poor average somewhat less than L. 12 per annum; and the donations from non-resident heritors average L. 10 per annum; together with the interest of L. 25, lodged in the Bank of Scotland at Dumfries. Without mentioning the large ash timber in the church-yard which is cut down at intervals, (a few trees of which last year produced about L. 10,) or the money arising from fines, proclamations, use of mortcloth, more than which latter sums are required to pay the different church officers, there are generally

about L. 10 distributed among them and the poorer householders in winter, arising from a charitable ball, or some amusement connected with charity. There is in general, and with only a few exceptions, a disposition among the poor to refrain from seeking parochial relief, which they consider as degrading. Assessments have been hitherto evaded, from a fear that they might eventually increase the number of the poor. On this head, we must notice the interference made with the interests of the native poor by great swarms of beggars, not merely the aged and infirm, but the young and robust, who flock from other quarters, frequently from Ireland, and inundate this district. It may safely be asserted, that they extort far more from the inhabitants in the course of the year, than our own poor derive from all the sources formerly enumerated.

*Inns.*—There is only one alehouse in the parish. It is kept where the turnpike toll is levied; and from not being very much frequented, appears to have no very bad effects upon the morals of the people.

*Fuel.*—Almost the only fuel used here is peat, got partly in this parish, and partly in Johnstone, where there is an almost interminable supply. Most of the peats in this parish are found in a moss towards the south. As it lies with little descent, it is much overrun with water, and is coming fast to a termination, recourse must now be had entirely to other parishes, or coals must be brought from a great distance.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The present state of the parish presents a very striking contrast in every respect to that which existed at the time of the first Statistical Account, which appears to have been written in 1793 or 1794; and also to the state of things when the last Account was written in 1798. Prices, indeed, appear to have been as remunerating to the farmer then as they are now. But all the lands have changed their owners, except in three cases, where the proprietors succeeded by inheritance. The general appearance, too, presents a very different aspect. The houses, which were then rather indifferent, are now very neat and comfortable. The farms are now divided and subdivided, and well fenced. A new and far better system of husbandry is now followed. The farmers have more capital, and carry on their operations with more energy and spirit. A purer breed of Galloway cows and cattle has been introduced. Sheep with a finer fleece

cover our hills, and, to improve the carcass, some of the store-farmers who have low lands and sown grass, encourage a mixed breed from a Cheviot ewe with a Leicestershire ram. Even in 1798, there were only two thrashing-machines in the parish; now every farmer has one. Lands on the side of the hills which have not been ploughed for nearly a century, and others which have no vestige of having ever been ploughed, have been broken up and sown down with artificial grasses. The rental which in 1798 was only L. 1900, is now nearly L. 4000 per annum. A more liberal education may now be received at our public school; and hence a number of young men have of late years gone to prosecute their studies at the universities, with a view to the learned professions. With these advantages we may be supposed to enjoy much happiness in our sequestered retreat, far from the bustle and confusion of towns or crowded thoroughfares; and certainly we do, or at least should do so, if we were duly aware of the blessings we enjoy, and did properly appreciate and improve them. Among the disadvantages to which this parish is liable, some complain of the distance from markets for the disposal of our produce, especially of heavy articles; but this is partly remedied in one important respect, and that is, in regard to bacon, the staple commodity of this district. Mr Hamilton, a respectable and extensive farmer in this parish, and possessed of capital, who last year supported a company in the parish of Johnstone for curing bacon, has this year found it convenient to salt a large proportion at his own house; which is also a great convenience, especially to the poor, who have no horses to carry it to a distance. He has already laid out L. 1000 in purchasing 300 carcasses, weighing in whole 4000 imperial stones. We may also mention, that though we have several plantations and clumps of trees, yet there is still a great deficiency on the higher ridges, where they would improve the climate, and prove a shelter as well as a great ornament to the district.

*Revised by the Writer, February 1834.*



# PARISH OF JOHNSTONE.

PRESBYTERY OF LOCHMABEN, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.

THE REV. ROBERT COLVIN, D. D. MINISTER.

## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name, Boundaries, &c.*—IN the most ancient records extant, the name of this parish is *Johnston*, which, in Saxon, signifies the *town* or *dwelling-place* of John, and seems to indicate that from the residence in that quarter of some illustrious person of that name in Scoto-Saxon times, (of whom, however, no tradition exists,) the surrounding territory was designated. At a later period it is generally written *Johnstoun*, and more recently *Johnstone*. From time immemorial, it has been the undisputed property and principal residence of the chief of the family of Johnstone. In addition to what was anciently so called, Johnstone \* comprehends a considerable portion of the old parishes of Garvald and Dumgree, and is now six miles in length, and averages three in breadth, containing twenty square miles, or nearly 13,000 imperial acres. It is nearly triangular in its figure, and bounded on the north by the parish of Kirkpatrick-Juxta, and on the east by Applegarth and Wamphray, from both of which it is separated by the river Annan. On the west it is bounded by the river Kinnel, which, with a small exception, divides it from Kirkmichael, and on the south, at a narrow point for about a mile, by the parish of Lochmaben. The confluence of the Annan and Kinnel being about two miles below the southern extremity, the parish is in the form of a ridge between those rivers, the lower part of which is about 150 feet above the level of the sea, the height of the ridge rising gradually to 700 or 800 feet. Between these rivers the whole parish is situated, with the exception of 2000 or 3000 acres on the west of the Kinnel, which

\* "In Bagimont's Roll, the rectory of Johnstone, in the deanery of Annandale, was taxed L. 2, 13s. 4d. The advowson belonged, both before and after the Reformation, to the family of Johnstone, the Lords of the Manor, in whom the right of patronage is still vested."—Vide Chalm. Caled. Vol. iii. p. 179.

ascend towards Nithsdale to the height of 1200 or 1500 feet. The ascent of the Annan, for the six miles for which it forms the eastern boundary, gradually increases from about 100 feet, till it reaches 250 feet above the sea level, at the march of Kirkpatrick-Juxta. The Kinnel is much more rapid in its course than the Annan, particularly after it is joined by its tributary stream Duff Kinnel, a little above Raehills.

*Meteorology.*—The average temperature of the year, (judging from observations made in the adjoining parish,) may be about  $47\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  of Fahrenheit. The climate on the south-east side, inclining towards the Annan, is somewhat similar to that of the other valleys in the south-west of Scotland, situated from 200 to 400 feet above sea level. On the north and south-west, in the valley of Kinnel, from the vicinity of extensive tracts of wet elevated country, it is decidedly more moist and cold at the same elevation. The prevailing winds come from the south and south-west, and bring with them the heaviest falls of rain. The severest snow storms we experience, blow from the north-east; but, owing to the southern exposure of the parish, and consequent southern direction of its streams and streamlets, snow does not lie so long upon the ground here as in the adjacent country.

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—The lower or southmost point of the parish, for upwards of a mile, lies upon a bottom of regular red sandstone rock. The remainder of it is generally of whinstone, of different degrees of fineness. Pieces of pure lead ore, from the size of an egg to that of a man's two hands, have been found at various times for above fifty years past, in ploughing particular fields of several of the farms near Lochwood, in this parish; and detached pieces are occasionally turned up by the plough even at this day. The proprietor, Mr Hope Johnstone, naturally conceiving that these might lead to the discovery of a continuous vein below, employed, some years ago, at considerable expense, an operative miner from Leadhills, who, with the assistance of some day-labourers, drove a level from Cogrieburn southward, in the direction most likely to catch the vein, if it existed. For some time the miner was extremely sanguine of success, and boasted of having come at last to a dusky marly clay, which he described to those who visited his subterraneous operations as a never-failing concomitant of lead ore. But unaccountably, and all at once, the miner's hopes vanished, and the search on the part of the proprietor was in the meantime entirely relinquished. In the absence of

a vein of lead below, the existence of disseminated lumps in that district, and nowhere else in the parish or neighbourhood, is not easily accounted for. They may have been brought from Lead-hills to Lochwood, when inhabited, to be smelted for domestic purposes, with the wood which must then have abounded, and been carried out to the fields, where they are now found among manure or rubbish; or they may be the scattered remnants of a depot which at one time was established at Lochwood or its vicinity, for the purpose of sending it to be smelted on the English border, where coals abounded.

Along the side of the Annan, there is a considerable extent of flat alluvial land, chiefly dry loam or gravel. In the interior parts of the parish there is a number of peat-mosses, extending in all to some hundred acres, under which large trees of birch, and particularly oak, are every where to be found, evidently indicating that they had grown from the original soil before the moss began to be formed upon them. The moss is probably the remains of the *Sylvæ Caledoniæ*, mentioned by Tacitus, and the hewing down of which, in many parts of the island, our Roman invaders experienced to be such a Herculean task. The collection of vegetable matter, made up of the coarser aquatic plants in a state of partial and progressive decay, doubtless goes to the more *immediate* formation of this substance. These plants being not easily soluble, are found to accumulate faster or slower, according to the humidity of the soil, and temperature of the atmosphere. That cold is necessary for the formation of moss is evident from this circumstance, that the moss uniformly becomes thinner as the climate becomes warmer, and that it is not found to exist in the warmer latitudes at all. It is also obvious, that, in proportion as the decomposition of the moss advances, its inflammability, one of its most important and valuable qualities, is increased. Hence, in digging peat for fuel, the upper turf, or brown spongy flow recently formed, and not having undergone the requisite chemical change, is laid aside; and if the moss has been kept in the same state of humidity during the progress of its growth, the undermost stratum is found always to produce the solid black peat, which when ignited emits most heat. Much correct information remains yet to be obtained respecting the essential elements of which this valuable substance is composed,—the various chemical changes which, in its progress to putrefaction, it undergoes,—and the causes which operate most powerfully either in promoting the growth of those numerous tribes

of aquatic plants, so indispensable to its formation, or in forwarding or retarding their decomposition. With the exception of the alluvial deposits and moss, the soil is chiefly either of a light loam, on a gravel or rock bottom, or a moorish soil, having a substratum immediately under it, of a very retentive clay or till.

*Zoology.*—There is no doubt that *red-deer*, and also *roe* or *forest-deer*, formerly abounded in this parish, as well as in the other portions of the district of Annandale; the names of various farms and lands, such as Raehills, Raeknows, &c. having a particular reference to that circumstance. In the year 1780, about a dozen of fallow-deer were, by the then proprietor, the late James third Earl of Hopetoun, brought from Hopetoun House in a carriage constructed for that purpose. They were kept for a short time, in an enclosure opposite Raehills, and regularly tended; but their instinctive love of liberty led them to break loose, and having got at large among the extensive plantations, they could never again be collected and confined. The Earl then gave orders to his game-keeper to employ a few expert marksmen, and endeavour to extirpate them. Permission, indeed, was given at that time to every one who chose to destroy them; and it is reported that not less than fifty were killed in one week. This permission, however, as might have been expected, was in some instances abused, and consequently soon recalled. Having long roamed undisturbed among the woods, they have now become exceedingly wild, and though the proprietor occasionally kills them, they have increased to the number, it is supposed, of upwards of 200. A few roe-deer have, within these last three years, been discovered; and from the circumstance, that before that period, within the memory of our oldest inhabitants, none had been seen, it is inferred, that they are not the descendants of the ancient aborigines of the district, conceived to be long since extinct, but that they have wandered from the upper ward of Lanarkshire, where they are pretty numerous, and found a shelter in our woods, among their kindred tribe of fallow.—*Goats*, which were numerous in the vicinity of Raehills about half a century ago, and kept, as our old inhabitants inform us, avowedly for the destruction of adders, (at which, it is said, they have a great antipathy,) have long been extirpated, in consequence of the havoc which they committed, by barking and topping the young trees in the plantations.—The *fox*, too, is not a stranger among us, but is often seen wending his way “at peep of dawn” to Mollin Cleugh or Kinnel Linns, after his midnight work of spoliation, among the lambs or poultry.

In the rivers Annan and Kinnel there is abundance of small trout. Salmon and salmon-trout were also formerly numerous at all seasons of the year, and the proprietor derived a small rent from the fisheries. For the last twenty years, however, so few have come up the rivers at the time when they are at all valuable, in consequence of the perfection to which the mode of fishing with stake-nets has been brought by the proprietors on the mouth of the river, and on the adjoining banks of the Solway Frith, (and which detains the fish of almost every description both at the ebbings and flowings of the tide,) that the fishings have become no object, and have not therefore been let. They still come up in great numbers from the sea in the floods of September and October, for the purpose of spawning, and return in the months of March and April to the Solway.

The cockchafer (*Melolontha vulgaris*), which often does incredible mischief to the pastures in the south and west of England, has been found, though rarely, in this parish, but its larva has not been observed. From the variety of soil, and the great extent of woods and plantations, a wide field of investigation is presented to the Entomologist. A great variety of insects has, indeed, already been found in the vicinity of Raehills, some of which are very rare. Of these we may enumerate the following, viz. *Leiodes piceus*, *Stromgytus fervidus*, *Byrrhus æneus*, *Ips quadripustulata*, *Lesteva Leachii*, *Drepanopteryx phalænoides*, *Polia olivacea*,\* *Chironomus elegans*, and several other new species which have not been hitherto described.

*Botany*.—In the woods we find in great abundance, *Adoxa moschatellina*, *Lysimachia vulgaris*, *Campanula persicifolia*, and more rarely *Pyrola media*. On the heaths and marshy grounds we meet with *Pinguicula vulgaris*, *Menyanthes trifoliata*, *Andromeda polifolia*, *Narthecium ossifragum*, *Drosera rotundifolia*, and *Vaccinium oxycoccus*. On the sandy grounds, by the sides of the rivers, we find *Hypericum humifusum*, *H. perforatum*, *H. pulchrum*, *Ononis arvensis*, &c. besides many species of that puzzling and imperfectly described genus *Hieracium*.

At Lochwood, the ancient seat of the Marquises of Annandale, and near Raehills, the seat of John James Hope John-

\* This new species, (*Polia olivacea*), which is described in the third volume of Stephens' Illustrations of British Entomology, was first discovered at Cramond, near Edinburgh, by the Rev. William Little, to whom we are indebted for the above interesting communication.

stone, Esq. M. P., the present representative of that family, there is a considerable extent of ground covered with oak and ash timber of natural growth. The former, particularly, has the appearance of great antiquity, and in some instances has attained unusual size. Various trees are, indeed, to be found near the present ruin of Lochwood, containing upwards of L. 200 cubic feet of timber, and of which one of the largest, is an oak of seventeen feet and a-half in circumference. On Mr Johnstone's property in the parish, there may be from 1200 to 1500 acres of plantation from fifty years old and downwards. Of all the varieties of plants, the larch and the spruce (but especially the *silver fir*, which in certain situations grows most rapidly,) seem best adapted to our soil and climate. The ash and the plane regularly planted round the farmsteadings from 100 to 150 years ago, have attained a large size, and are still thriving; and the oak is found to thrive in sheltered situations on every description of soil.

#### II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Eminent Men.*—This parish has the honour of being the birth place of the late Dr John Rogerson of Wamphray, for many years first physician to the late Empress Catherine of Russia; a gentleman distinguished not less by his high attainments in medical science, than by the general polish of his mind, and the fascinating urbanity of his manners. His father, Mr Samuel Rogerson, was one of the Marquis of Annandale's tenants in the farm of Lochbrow, near the southern extremity of the parish, where the doctor was born. He died at Dumcrieff, near Moffat, in the year 1823, and was buried in the church-yard of Wamphray. While one-half of Lochbrow was farmed by Mr Rogerson, the other was at the same time rented by Mr William Halliday, whose son, Dr Matthew Halliday, then enjoyed the appointment of one of her Imperial Majesty's medical attendants, which Dr Rogerson afterwards filled, and in which Dr Halliday had been preceded by Dr Mounsey, from the parish of Tinwald, by Dr Guthrie from Edinburgh, and by Dr Grieve from Peebles-shire; so that we have five eminent Scotch physicians in successive or co-etaneous attendance upon royalty in the Russian court, of whom *two* were natives of this parish. Dr Halliday died at St Petersburg about the middle of the eighteenth century.

In the vault of the family of Annandale attached to the church of Johnstone, the remains of several persons of high distinction are deposited. To make room for succeeding generations, the coffins

which contained them were directed to be inhumated, under the superintendence of the minister of the parish, in the year 1818, who possessed himself at that time of copies of their several inscriptions.\*

*Land-owners.*—The whole parish, with the exception of two farms belonging to the Rev. John Copland and Sir William Jardine, now belongs to Mr Hope Johnstone of Annandale. The family from which he is descended, have been proprietors of it and other extensive estates in this district of Dumfries-shire as far back as tradition goes. They were, as is well known, one of the chief warlike border clans, and in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries were distinguished for their constant warfare with the Douglasses, their English neighbours, and particularly with the rival Scotch family of Maxwell of Nithsdale. Among the ancient records and papers of Mr Hope Johnstone, there will no doubt be found much to illustrate the history and antiquities of this part of the border, especially during the latter period of the reign of Elizabeth, when Sir James Johnstone of that ilk was knighted, and made “warden of the west marches,”—an office held more than once by the family, under the several successive reigns of the sixteenth century.

*Parochial Registers.*—No parochial registers, or sessional records exist in this parish previous to the year 1735. Since that period a book has been kept containing an account of the ordinary collections, &c. and of the half yearly distributions to the poor, which is balanced and docketed annually by the session, and to which the heritors of the parish have at all times access. Another book is kept, in which is recorded the general sessional business, and another for the registration of those births which are communicated to the session-clerk. No record of deaths, or marriages, has ever been kept here.

*Antiquities.*—There is upon the east side of the small runner which separates the farm of Crawknowes from Beastrockrigg, a small burrow or tumulus, which was never opened in the memory of any person now alive, and which is said to be the spot where the Laird of Lochwood shot, in a private quarrel, the Laird of Dumgree, and hid his body. There is nothing in the shape of a ruin worthy of notice, with the exception of the Castle or Tower of Lochwood, in the north end of the parish, said to have been built during the fourteenth century, and which, from the thickness of its walls, and from its insulated situation,

\* For those inscriptions see original MS. of this Account, among the Archives of the Church.

being almost surrounded by impassable bogs and marshes, must have been a place of great strength. It was in allusion to this circumstance that James VI. is said to have declared, "that the man who built Lochwood, though he might have the outward appearance of an honest man, must have been a knave at heart." Towards the end of the sixteenth century, it was burnt by Robert, natural brother to the chieftain, Lord John Maxwell, who, with savage glee, says the historian, exclaimed, while its flames ascended to the skies, "I'll give Dame Johnstone light enough to show her to set her silken hood."\* It was again repaired and inhabited until three years after the death of the first Marquis William of Annandale, which took place there in 1721, when it was finally abandoned by the family, and suffered gradually to fall into decay.†

*Modern Buildings.*—There is no other mansion-house in the parish, excepting Raehills, the seat of J. J. Hope Johnstone, Esq. which was built by his grandfather, James Earl of Hopetoun, in the year 1786, and is of the castellated or old English baronial style of masonry, prevalent in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. A large addition fronting the south, and containing several splendid

\* It was in revenge for the destruction of Lochwood's "lofty towers, where dwelt the Lords of Annandale," that the Johnstones, aided by the bold Buocleuch, the Elliots, the Armstrongs, and the Grahams, these bravest of all the warriors of the Scottish border, attacked and cut to pieces a party of the Maxwells near Lochmaben, where, among the slain, fell Robert the incendiary himself, the natural brother of the chieftain. The surviving few then took refuge in the church of Lochmaben, but the church, with all that was in it, was burnt to ashes by the Johnstones, and it was this sacrilegious and barbarous act which in its turn occasioned the memorable battle of Dryfesands, in which the Johnstones finally prevailed; and Lord Maxwell, after having performed prodigies of valour, and while "engaged in single combat with Lord Johnstone, was slain behind his back by the cowardly hands of Will of Kirkhill. A tradition entitled to consideration prevails among those whose forefathers lived near the very spot where the bloody border battle of Dryfesands was fought, that upon that occasion Lord Maxwell was mortally wounded, and fell unknown,—that a few hours after the "battle was o'er," the gudewife of the Kirkton, a place adjacent to the scene of action, repaired to the spot in quest of her husband, or for some other purpose, and having accidentally discovered his Lordship lying in a state of exhaustion, but still able to tell his name, that this heroine despatched him with the huge key of the tower which she carried in her hand.

† About seven years ago a considerable number of silver coins of various sizes, and one large gold one, (a double Jacobus,) were discovered by a person sowing grass-seeds in the cow-park of Good-hope. They consist chiefly of half-crowns, shillings, and sixpences, of the reign of Elizabeth, James, William, and Mary, and are now in possession of the proprietor at Raehills. A few other silver coins, chiefly half-crowns of James VI., and shillings of Elizabeth, were, much about the same period, discovered in an earthen pot by a man who was clearing out the foundations of an old wall or dike near the farm-house of Kerse of Kinnel.



apartments, is now erecting, which, when finished, will render it one of the most magnificent edifices in the south of Scotland.

### III.—POPULATION.

In 1755, the population was, by the return to Dr Webster,	-	494
1791,	-	565
1801, by the Census,	-	740
1811,	-	904
1821,	-	1179
1831,	-	1234

The increase of the population seems chiefly to have arisen from the establishment, about fifty years ago, of new small farms on the hitherto uncultivated moorlands of Mr Johnstone's estate; from more recent grants of building leases to respectable tradesmen and others; and from the general prosperity of its agriculture.

1. Number of families in the parish,	-	202
of families chiefly employed in agriculture,	-	109
chiefly employed in trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	44	
2. Number of unmarried men, bachelors or widowers, upwards of 50 years of age,	32	
of unmarried women, including widows, upwards of 45,	-	44

*Character and Habits of the People.*—The prevailing popular games are curling in the winter, and quoits in summer; for superior skill in both of which manly and exhilarating exercises, this parish has for some years past been confessedly distinguished.

The people are cleanly in their habits, and seem never to forget that a black and white home-made plaid (be it in the month of June or January, and the weather what it may,) is essential to complete their dress when they go abroad, to church or market. Oatmeal made into porridge or cakes, and potatoes used with milk, and occasionally a little mutton, or beef, or bacon, is the ordinary food of the peasantry, who are industrious in their callings, and in their circumstances contented and happy. Though not much engrossed in literary or intellectual pursuits, our inhabitants are yet an intelligent, moral, and church-going population. Poaching of salmon in the river Annan, though not so common as it was thirty or forty years ago, is sometimes practised during the winter season, but chiefly by persons not resident in the parish; and we fear that until the proprietors on the river in the upper district of Annandale, have a personal interest in protecting the fisheries, by being allowed a chance of a share of the fish at the proper season, (which at present is

denied them by the land-owners on the river's mouth,) all the united vigilance of all the water bailies whom they or their tacksmen may appoint, will never be able to check this demoralizing practice.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

##### *Agriculture and Rural Economy.\*—*

Number of imperial acres in crops, or occasionally cultivated, between 5000 and 6000			
acres uncultivated, or in pasture, &c. about	-	-	5000
waste land which could be profitably cultivated,			500 to 1000
undivided common,	-	-	0
Extent of land under plantation and natural wood, nearly	-	-	1500

In the plantations made by the late James Earl of Hopetoun forty years ago, Scotch firs were chiefly used, with a small portion of larch and spruce. It is found, that, on moderately good soils, the comparative value of the larch to the Scotch fir is as three or four to one; and when the soil is mossy, and the bottom not very retentive, that the spruce is double the value of the Scotch fir. It is now quite understood, also, that very great injury is committed, and actual loss sustained, by not thinning the plantations in due time, and by neglecting to drain them properly. In the latter plantations less Scotch fir is used, and more attention paid to draining and thinning. From the older plantations, by means of two saw-mills, kept in almost constant operation, the neighbouring parishes and districts are supplied with wood for farm-buildings, palings, and other agricultural purposes, and quantities of the large larch have for these three years past, been sent to Lancashire and Cheshire for erecting railways. On the whole, these plantations, although they might have been perhaps more judiciously managed, may be reckoned a most profitable application of capital, whether we consider the great saving they occasion to the proprietor in the erecting of farm-steadings, &c. or the direct proceeds of their annual sales, or the vast advantages which they afford by way of shelter, to the neighbouring lands.

*Rent of Land.*—The average rent of the arable land in the parish may be from 10s. to 12s. per imperial acre. There are not above 2000 acres of land fit for regular rotation for green crop.

\* To Charles Stewart, Esq. factor upon the estates of Annandale, we are under many obligations for his able assistance in framing this Report, but particularly for his extensive information and very accurate calculations on this head.

There are only two regular sheep-farms, and of these the rent may be about 5s. per sheep. Black-cattle being kept on the mixed arable farms, it is difficult to state the proportion of rent paid for them; but for the last two years the annual return to the farmers, taking the average of young and old, does not exceed L. 2, 10s. each.

*Rate of Wages.*—The general rate of a day-labourer's wages, without victuals, is 1s. 6d. in summer, and 1s. 4d. in winter; and of that of a mason or carpenter, from 1s. 10d. to 2s. 6d. Full-grown farm-servants, besides board, receive from L. 4 to L. 6; and women from L. 2 to L. 3 per half-year.

*Breeds of Live Stock.*—On the two sheep-farms, the stock consists partly of Cheviot, and partly of short, or black-faced sheep; and on all the other farms, cows of the Galloway breed are kept, and their produce usually sold at one and two years old, excepting one farm, where a dairy stock of the pure Ayrshire breed is kept. The greatest attention has been bestowed for these last fifty years by the proprietor and his tenants in improving the breed of black-cattle. Bulls have been brought from the best districts of Galloway, and occasionally young queys of remarkable symmetry and beauty have been introduced, and it is generally allowed, and, in fact proved, from the numerous premiums annually awarded to our tenantry from the district or upper Annandale Agricultural Society, that this parish now produces the purest breed of Galloway cattle that is to be found in Dumfries-shire. It may be remarked, however, that the dairy farm above alluded to, on which thirty cows are kept, is considered to pay the tenant better than any of those on which the Galloway stock is reared, and the usual mode of management in the south practised.

*Husbandry.*—The reclaiming of waste land has been here carried farther than it ought to have been with profit, either to the landlord or tenant, it being found very difficult and expensive to keep up the fertility of the poorer soils. Much, however, remains to be done in the way of draining and top-dressing. The rotation of crops is very regularly observed. The land being allowed to remain four years in grass, two white crops are taken, succeeded by a green crop sown out with grass seeds. Experience has taught us that this system of management is the most proper for the medium soils of the parish; but in the extremes of good and bad land, this course ought in some cases to be deviated from. The species of grain called bear or big, so common about half a

century ago, is altogether banished from the parish, and barley substituted in its room. Wheat is regularly cultivated in three or four farms only.

Nearly the whole parish is under leases of twenty-one years, which commenced in 1814, and great prices being then calculated upon for agricultural produce of every description, the farms were anxiously taken at too high a rent, to afford an adequate remuneration to the tenants. Mr Hope Johnstone was early aware of this circumstance, and has kindly made, during almost the whole currency of the leases, abatements of rent from 25 to 40 per cent. and thus at once given a powerful stimulus to the industry of his numerous tenantry, and afforded an instance of liberality equalled by few, and surpassed, we believe, by none of the landlords in the south of Scotland. Very few tenants have consequently quitted their farms during this period; and it is a remarkable fact in our parochial statistics, that two-thirds of the whole present tacksmen and their forefathers have been in the parish for fifty years and upwards.

During the last fifteen years, the parish has been almost wholly inclosed and subdivided with fences of hedge and ditch, and on most of the farms, neat, commodious, and substantial steadings of stone and lime, with slate-roofs, have been built; and it is supposed that the proprietor has laid out from three to four years' rent on these improvements.

Mr Johnstone has been at unusual pains to stimulate the spirit of enterprise among the tenantry on this part of his estates, and the increase of produce and general improvement have been remarkably rapid within these last twenty years. The inferiority of the soil of a portion of the farms, and the recurrence of defective crops in bad seasons, make, however, the progress of these improvements less steady than it would otherwise be in a kindlier climate, and more propitious soil.

*Quarry.*—There is only one freestone quarry in the parish, on a small scale, for the supply of stones for farm-buildings.

*Produce.*—Average gross amount of raw produce yearly raised in the parish, as nearly as can be ascertained, is as follows:

Produce of grain of all kinds cultivated for the food of man or domestic animals, including fodder, and deducting seed,	-	-	-	L. 4600 0 0
Ditto of potatoes and turnips, and ditto,	-	-	-	1900 0 0
Produce of rye-grass and meadow hay,	-	-	-	1200 0 0
				L. 7700 0 0
			Carry forward,	L. 7700 0 0

	Brought forward,	L. 7700 0 0
Flax is now cultivated upon a very small scale, (and regularly decreasing) and cannot be estimated above	-	50 0 0
Pasture of 500 cows and 700 young cattle, estimating 3 of the latter equal to 2 of the former,	-	2500 0 0
Pasture of 1700 sheep,	-	550 0 0
Pasture of horses bred for sale, exclusive of those kept for husbandry,	-	100 0 0
Pasture of 500 pigs fed and sold for pork,	-	500 0 0
The annual thinnings and periodical fellings of wood may be reckoned to average	-	600 0 0
Total yearly value of raw produce,	-	L. 12,000 0 0

The gross quantity of pork sold, including the cottars' pigs, may amount yearly to L. 2000. This, indeed, is our staple commodity, and by far the most important article of saleable farm produce in the parish. But, as the food of these pigs is included under the general heads of potatoes and grain, from the sum specified, we have deducted the value of those articles which they consume in feeding.

The annual produce of gardens and orchards is extremely trifling, and the common vegetables in them are included in the head of green crop above stated.

*Manufactures.*—There are a few of the various ordinary handicraftsmen, such as 1 baker; 7 blacksmiths; 2 plasterers; 1 slater; 37 masons; 17 carpenters; 2 sawyers; 3 carters; 2 grooms; 1 cooper; 1 corn-dealer; 1 hosier; 1 cow-keeper; 1 miller; 6 shoemakers; 3 shop-keepers; 4 tailors; 9 weavers; in all 99.

Bacon is manufactured here to a very considerable extent. At St Ann's Bridge not less than 516 carcasses of pigs, weighing 6000 stones, and averaging nearly twelve stones each, of fourteen pounds to the stone, have been this season manufactured into hams and flitches by Mr James Thorburn and Co. which has proved to be a very profitable investment of capital. When sufficiently dried and fit for use, it is usually carried to Longtown, where it commands a ready-money sale for the markets of Newcastle, Shields, and Sunderland, from whence part of it is shipped to London. It is said, indeed, that in the town of Newcastle alone, forty cart loads per week are, through the year, at an average, disposed of. The fluctuation in the price of this article is often rapid and unaccountable, even to the dealers themselves, and seems not to be so immediately affected by the rise or fall of other fat produce, as by the prosperous or declining state of the manufactures, especially in the south. At Pan-

lands, too, carcases to the amount of 250, and weighing 2870 stones, were cured by Messrs Halliday last season, and the same manufacture has been carried on by them sometimes to a less extent, and sometimes to a greater, for upwards of thirty years past.

The breed of pigs has of late been so much improved in Annandale, and the mode of feeding and curing them so thoroughly understood and practised, that its hams vie in flavour with the Yorkshire or Westphalia themselves, and far excel those lank ill-fed Irish which are imported in such abundance into the west of the island.

*Societies.*—The only public association is a small farming society established in the year 1818, (and to which the principal proprietor makes a handsome annual contribution,) for giving premiums for improving the breed of Galloway cattle, draught horses, and pigs, and for other agricultural objects. To the spirit of emulation and of enterprise which this little society has evidently excited, is owing in a great measure that decided improvement both in the quality of the stock of various kinds annually exhibited, and in the general mode of parochial management.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Markets, &c.*—The nearest market-towns are Lockerby and Moffat, the former being situated at six miles distance from the southern, and the latter about the same distance from the northern extremity of the parish.

*Means of Communication.*—The nearest post towns are Moffat for the upper district of the parish, and Lochmaben and Lockerby for the lower. The great road from London to Glasgow, by Carlisle, runs for five miles through the parish,—that from Dumfries to Edinburgh, *via* Moffat, runs five miles; and a turnpike road from Moffat to Lochmaben and Annan also runs about six miles from north to south nearly through its centre. The London and Glasgow, and Edinburgh and Dumfries mail-coaches, and an Edinburgh and Dumfries stage-coach, travel on these roads. The London and Glasgow road is one of the finest and best kept in the kingdom, and has vastly improved our internal communication. The first bridge over the Kinnel at St Anns,\* near Raehills, was built in the year 1782, rebuilt in 1795, and considerably widened

\* Both above and below St Anns, there are several very fanciful wooden bridges connecting the various beautiful walks which wind on each side, along the romantic banks of the Kinnel.

and improved in 1817. That over the Annan at Johnstone Mills, consisting of one arch, in span above 80 feet, was built in the year 1818. Both of these bridges, with the others over the smaller streams, are kept in excellent repair.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church is situated on the west side of the river Annan, and upon the eastmost verge of the parish, and is, like many other of our parish churches in Scotland, by no means central, or convenient for the greater part of the population. Its distance from the western extremity is seven miles, from the northern, four, and from the southern, two miles and a-half. It was built in the year 1733, and rebuilt and considerably enlarged in 1818, and is now very comfortable and commodious. The only benefaction on record is that of L. 172 bequeathed by John Aitken, late farmer in Kirkbank, for behoof of the parochial schoolmaster, and placed, in terms of his will, under the uncontrolled management of the kirk-session. The money is, by a personal bond dated at Edinburgh 13th March 1822, in the hands of the trustees upon the estate of Annandale, who have hitherto allowed for it five per cent. per annum. The church accommodates 500 persons, and there are at least fifty free sittings. The manse was built in the year 1735, rebuilt about 1795, and enlarged and repaired at the expense of L. 650 in 1809, when the present incumbent was inducted into the living. The extent of glebe land may be about ten imperial acres, including garden and house steading, and may be valued at 20s. per acre. The amount of the stipend is L. 165, 13s. 1½d. per annum.

The number of families attending the Established church may be 191, and of persons of all ages at an average, 400. The number of persons attending the neighbouring dissenting meeting-houses may be 27. The average number of young communicants yearly at the parish church, from a private register kept by the minister for nearly twenty years past, has been 25, and of ordinary communicants of all ages, of whom a few are from other congregations, 400.

An annual collection for religious purposes has been made for some years past upon the thanksgiving Sabbath, or that which immediately succeeds the dispensation of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and has been usually divided between the Bible Society of Edinburgh and the Scottish Missionary Society. A moiety of it was this year transmitted to the North American Colonial Society of Glasgow. The probable average amount of church collections

yearly for charitable purposes, may be (exclusive of our collections and funds for the regular poor) from L. 6 to L. 8.

*Education.*—There are three public schools in the parish, one (the parochial school) situated near the church,—another at Edgemoor, on the west side of the parish, and another on the northmost verge of the parish, at Cogrieburn bridge. In the parochial school, besides the usual branches, Latin, Greek, and French are taught : in the other two, reading, writing, and accounts only. The salary of the parochial teacher was the maximum under the old act, but he being for some years in a state of insanity, and enjoying the whole salary, with the addition of L. 3 out of the Aitken mortification, in lieu of a house, in virtue of an agreement between his legal guardians and the heritors, and sanctioned by the presbytery of Lochmaben, it has hitherto been considered inexpedient to make any further arrangement. An interim teacher, appointed by the heritors, conducts, in his absence, the business of the school, and is remunerated by the fees and Candlemas offerings, with L. 5, 12s. from the Aitken fund, which may, in all, amount to about L. 27 per annum. The teacher at Edgemoor has a salary of L. 14 a-year from Mr Hope Johnstone, which, with the school fees, may make his income about L. 24 yearly. The teacher at Cogrieburn bridge receives no salary, but is dependent upon the fees of teaching and the Candlemas offerings alone. His income may be estimated at from L. 14 to 16 a-year. The parochial teacher possesses the legal accommodations in houses and land. The general expense of education per annum, for children under twelve years of age, may be 10s., for those above that age, 12s., and for those who are taught Latin, Greek, &c. 20s. There are no persons in the parish above six years of age who cannot both read and write.\* Since the facilities of education have been increased, an evident improvement has taken place in the morals and general good conduct of the parishioners, as is testified by our sessional records of discipline, &c.

*Literature.*—A parochial library, consisting chiefly of books of divinity, biography, history, &c. (and from which all novels are

\* We have also two Sabbath evening-schools. The one at St Ann's Bridge, and the other at the church, which meet during the summer months, and are open indiscriminately, and gratuitously, to children of all classes, who choose to attend. The average number of scholars at both has for some years past been 125, and there is reason to believe that these little religious seminaries have been eminently blessed to promote the spiritual interest of the rising generation amongst us.



positively excluded,) was established by a general subscription in the year 1828. The funds were increased by a very handsome donation from the principal heritor, by means of which, with the quarterly subscription of the members, (chiefly heads of families,) it amounts to above 300 volumes.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The average number of persons receiving regular parochial aid is 16, and the annual sum allowed to each may average L. 2, 5s. They have all of them free houses, with plenty of peat fuel for the trouble of casting, and, through the kindness of the family at Raehills, who take a sort of hereditary and exclusive charge of the needy amongst us, our industrious females, who are able to do a little work, are provided with employment in the way of spinning, &c. and, upon the whole, our poor are altogether well cared for. The whole amount of annual collections, &c. including the interest of L. 280, in the hands of the family of Anandale, for which 5 per cent. is allowed, may be L. 65.

*Inns, &c.*—There are neither inns, nor alehouses kept here, nor do they seem to be required as a public accommodation. The proprietor, Mr Hope Johnstone, following out the views of his predecessors, has carefully prevented the establishment of dram-shops on his estates generally, and particularly in the parish of Johnstone; and there is no doubt that, should this practice, so patriotic and enlightened, be generally adopted by influential persons throughout our land, much injury to the health and morals of the community would be prevented.

*Fuel.*—The greater proportion of this article is dug from the extensive peat-mosses in the parish; the average labour and carriage of which may amount to about 30s. per annum for each householder. Coals are but little used, in consequence, chiefly of their great distance.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

There are, we believe, few, if any instances of a parish unconnected with manufactures, and whose inhabitants depend exclusively for support upon the cultivation of the soil, increasing so rapidly in population as this has done within these last forty years. During this period the external aspect of the parish has been entirely changed, by its roads, its enclosures, and its improved system of husbandry, but more especially by the number of comfortable dwellings erected for the accommodation of the labouring-classes. These houses have been built partly at their own expense,

with the assistance of timber, &c. from the proprietor, and are generally slated or flagged.\* Labourers of industrious habits having possessed themselves of these tenements, with an adjacent piece of ground for keeping a cow, and growing potatoes for their families, at a moderate rent, are enabled to live in a degree of comfort and independence very superior, indeed, to what is enjoyed by the same rank who reside in villages, or who rent houses from year to year under the tenantry. And it is to be regretted that this system, so conducive to the happiness and morals of our peasantry, has not, at least on estates similarly situated, been more extensively adopted. Nor has the want of employment, the frequent concomitant of increase of population, been hitherto materially felt among us. Great caution, we allow, is at all times requisite so to limit the number of these possessions, as not to increase that population beyond the natural demand for labour, otherwise the evil which has been inflicted on our sister island, might soon pervade every parish of our land. Resident and enlightened proprietors, however, who have attended to this branch of political economy, will soon discover to what extent this practice may be carried in their respective districts, with advantage both to themselves and to the community. While the population has increased so extensively, it is an extraordinary fact in our parish statistics, that its pauperism has been diminished. For, forty years ago, with a population of 565, the regular paupers upon the roll were 18,† whereas, in the year 1831, when the population has risen to 1234, the number upon our list at the half yearly distribution in November last, amounted only to 16.

The nature of the soil and climate, and our distance from markets and manure, have rendered it necessary for the proprietor to lay out the farms into moderate sizes. There is none, however, so small as not to afford ample employment for a couple of horses.

Experiments are in progress by the proprietor, for ascertaining whether spade culture cannot be profitably introduced on particu-

\* Building leases are granted for 21 years at a nominal rent, the proprietor reserving power to resume upon a year's notice, on payment of a part of the sum expended in building, in proportion to the period of lease at the time of resumption unexpired. Thus, supposing a house to cost originally L. 63, it could be resumed at the end of the first year on payment of L. 60, at the end of the second on payment of L. 57, and so on. And at the expiration of the lease the house becomes the property of the landlord. This arrangement has been adopted, first, to save original outlay on the part of the proprietor, and secondly, to operate as a check (which the system of feuing would not do,) to the introduction of disreputable persons into the parish; and has been found satisfactory to both parties.

† *Vide* last Statistical Account, p. 222.

lar soils; but these are not yet so far advanced as to enable us to give the results.

It is doubtful whether much improvement can now be made on the general system of our husbandry, excepting, indeed, in so far as it may gradually arise from the increasing skill and enterprise of the tenantry.

The prevailing surnames in the parish are, *Johnstone*, and *Halliday*,—of the former there are 109, and of the latter 46.

The prevailing disease among us (if, indeed, any can be so called,) is pleurisy, which sometimes shows itself, but generally in a mild form, in the months of September and October. But of those “putrid fevers” caught in olden times, partly by infection from our voracious “neighbours of the mountains,\* who fed upon *carrion*, and who, from habit, are said to have preferred it to sound and wholesome mutton,”† we now happily know nothing.

Finally, in this very populous, rural parish, we have neither *public-house*—nor *meeting-house*—nor *resident surgeon*—nor *village*—nor *post-office*—nor *prison*—nor *lawyer*—nor *beggar*,—specialties, we humbly conceive, not to be found united in any one parish of similar dimensions in Britain; and of which, though some may be occasionally felt as parish privations, others are daily prized by us as distinguished blessings.

\* *Query*. Who could these neighbours be? or where, now, are the mountains here referred to?

† *Vide* old Statistical Account, p. 217.

*February 1834.*

# THE UNITED PARISHES OF APPLEGARTH AND SIBBALDBIE.

PRESBYTERY OF LOCHMABEN, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.

THE REV. WILLIAM DUNBAR, MINISTER.

---

## L—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name and Boundaries.*—APPLEGARTH is a compound of the words *Apple* and *Garth*, the last of which denotes, both in the Celtic and Gothic languages, an *inclosure*. In the Yorkshire dialect, as Mr Chalmers remarks in his *Caledonia*, *Applegarth* is the common appellation for an orchard. To the parish of Applegarth was annexed in 1609, that of Sibbaldbie or Sibbaldbye, which is supposed by Chalmers to have obtained its name during Saxon times, from its having been the *Bye*, or dwelling-place of some person called Sibbald. To Applegarth was attached also the chapelry of Dinwiddie, which, it is said, belonged of old to the Knights Templars, who had large possessions in Annandale.

The parish extends  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles in a northerly direction, and its breadth eastward is of the same extent. The parish contains in whole  $17\frac{1}{2}$  square miles. It is of a triangular figure, and is bounded on the N. by Wamphray; N. E. and E. by Hutton; W. by Johnstone and Lochmaben; and S. by Dryfesdale, and that part of Lochmaben parish which lies on the east side of the river Annan.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The high grounds in the parish,—for they cannot be called *mountains*, and scarcely *hills*,—lie on either side of the river Dryfe; the western range commencing nearly at the southernmost boundary, and extending in a northern direction till it joins the Wamphray range; the eastern range is a continuation of that called Quhytwoollen in Dryfesdale, running northwards, and joining the hilly ground of Hutton. The highest part of the former range is Dinwiddie hill, by barometrical measurement 736 feet above the level of the sea. Of the latter range, Adder-law is the highest ground, measuring 638 feet.

*Meteorology.*—The following table exhibits the average temperature of the atmosphere for the last seven years, as ascertained by a thermometer at Applegarth manse, 180 feet above the level of the sea, from which it is distant 10 miles; longitude, 3° 12' W. latitude, 55° 13' N. The observations were taken at nine o'clock, morning and evening.

		1825.	1826.	1827.	1828.	1829.	1830.	1831.	Medium 7 years.	Medium of Seasons.
Mean Monthly Temperature	Feb.	36.75	38.66	31.75	38.54	38.12	33.75	36.10	36.28	} Spring 40.31
	March,	37.66	38.63	38.16	41.06	38.36	43.0	42.10	39.90	
	April,	42.16	45.40	46.32	44.08	42.12	46.50	46.70	44.75	
	May,	49.0	50.75	51.87	52.75	56.50	52.0	52.27	52.16	} Summer 56.86
	June,	52.66	63.18	57.33	57.75	58.50	53.80	60.30	37.98	
	July,	58.16	64.30	63.97	59.66	58.15	58.90	60.30	60.49	
	Aug.	56.0	60.86	60.0	57.66	55.90	55.20	60.70	59.47	} Autumn 54.18
	Sept.	54.25	55.37	57.0	55.16	50.20	52.10	54.80	54.12	
	Oct.	47.85	48.68	51.37	47.61	45.50	48.20	52.50	48.84	
	Nov.	34.55	38.48	41.18	45.08	39.56	42.25	39.40	47.18	} Winter 39.92
	Dec.	36.66	42.33	41.60	44.60	35.50	34.40	39.90	39.27	
	Jan.	34.52	30.67	34.25	38.25	30.0	32.50	33.0	33.31	
An. Temp.		45.01	48.12	47.91	48.51	45.70	46.05	48.57		

The following table exhibits the quantity, in inches, of rain fallen at Applegarth manse, for the last five years, ascertained by a rain-gage placed on a garden wall 10 feet high.

	1827.	1828.	1829.	1830.	1831.	Average 5 years.
Jan.	3.60	3.84	0.25	0.20	1.75	1.92
Feb.	1.06	2.20	1.15	1.80	2.25	1.69
Mar.	3.06	1.12	1.35	1.80	3.90	2.24
Apr.	1.84	2.60	3.50	3.90	1.20	2.60
May,	2.40	1.40	1.25	2.60	0.12	1.57*
June,	2.75	2.01	4.00	1.20	2.90	2.53
July,	1.84	7.50	2.60	4.40	2.60	3.78
Aug.	3.40	5.75	4.50	2.70	2.20	3.70
Sept.	3.15	2.75	3.75	6.50	3.60	3.95†
Oct.	2.09	3.00	5.00	1.50	7.25	3.94
Nov.	3.25	3.20	2.50	5.70	3.70	3.73
Dec.	5.33	4.50	1.50	1.70	4.25	3.45
Total	33.77	39.87	31.33	34.0	35.72	

General Average, 34.93 inches.

*Climate, &c.*—It may be remarked, that the temperature must be considerably influenced by the nakedness of the country, which from the N. W. round to N. E. is generally destitute of growing wood; a deficiency, however, which is now in the way of being supplied. In the meantime, the cold winds from these quarters receive no check,

\* Driest month.

† Wettest month.

and consequently, the temperature no increase from well-grown woods. The southern part of the parish, provincially called "the How of Applegarth," is on a low level, compared with the northern and eastern divisions, and interspersed with meadow grounds; yet the greater part of the adjoining lands being dry, and of a gravelly or sandy loam, this southern division is regarded as equally healthful with those of a superior elevation. There are no distempers peculiar to the parish, which may be justly regarded as very healthy.

*Hydrography.*—The river Annan separates the parish from Lochmaben and Johnstone on the west; and the water of Dryfe, in part of its course, from Dryfesdale, on the east. The Annan rises about 4 or 5 miles above Moffat, in that mountainous range which separates Dumfries-shire from Lanarkshire and Peebles-shire, and from the opposite side of which issue also the more famed waters of the Tweed and Clyde. The stream of the Annan runs a southerly course at a medium breadth of 90 or 100 feet, through 30 miles of fertile country, and falls into the Solway Firth about a mile below the town of Annan. The Dryfe rises in the northern extremity of the parish of Hutton, and runs in a southerly and south-westerly direction, in a stream nowhere more than 30 feet in breadth, and generally very shallow, till it joins the Annan  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile below Applegarth church, at the distance of 15 miles from its source.

*Geology and Botany.*\*—The parish is intersected by the two hilly ranges already noticed, running nearly parallel, north and south; and between them flows the Dryfe, which, running within the boundaries of the parish, is of more importance than the Annan, when taken in connection with its geology. The Annan, though larger, and the origin of some fine tracts of alluvial land in the lower part of the district, is here but a bordering river, the banks of which present no very marked features. Looking at the Dryfe, therefore, as the division between the two great ridges, we find the declivities of these ridges furrowed into deep channels, by which several streams descend rapidly to the river; and the corresponding slopes on the opposite or outer sides of the ridges are also intersected by other streams, which make their way, those on the west side, to the Annan, the others to the Corrie Water, the east-

\* The whole of the facts stated under the heads "Geology, Botany, and Zoology," were kindly communicated to the writer of this account, by Sir William Jardine, Bart. of Applegarth. They are given at so great length as being common in a great measure to the surrounding district.

ern boundary of the parish. These rivers, though insignificant in themselves, are important as land-marks or marches; and their banks being in many instances precipitous, and clothed partly with natural brushwood, and partly with planted timber, form the only localities where many of the native wild plants of the country are to be found. The two ridges present nearly the same geological formation. The *old red sandstone* appears on the borders of the western ridge, in the bed of the Annan, from Jardine-Hall down to the Milnhouse Bridge, a distance of  $1\frac{1}{4}$  mile; below this, the river flows only through holm land. Between the two places above-mentioned, the banks rise often to the height of 20 or 30 feet, and are composed of gravel and broken red sandstone, in which are imbedded blocks of the latter of considerable size, and easily split into thin sections or *flags*. Many of these banks are planted with larch, spruce, Scots fir, silver fir, oak, ash, elm, plane and beech. Of the firs, the first three, after growing thrivingly for twelve or fourteen years, make little more progress, and in fact soon begin to decay; particularly the larch, which, though only from twenty to twenty-five years old, is almost dead, the wood having become of a cork-like consistence. The contact of the roots with the sandstone gravel appears to produce this effect in a shorter or longer period, according to its depth from the surface. The silver fir, oak, plane and beech, of the same age, thrive vigorously, the ash and elm, not so luxuriantly, unless their roots have reached the alluvial deposit. The alder may be considered almost a natural tree along these banks.

The banks above described extend to a greater or lesser distance from the river, according to circumstances; but the ground between them is always alluvial, interspersed with strata of river gravel, plainly indicating the various courses of the stream at former periods. At the upper part of the parish these alluvial tracts are of considerable extent; and below the Milnhouse bridge, they form an extensive flat of rich soil, lying between the junction of the Annan and Dryfe. They are partly cropped, and partly in pasture and meadow.

From the banks of the Annan, and the boundaries of the alluvial lands, the country north-eastward rises with gentle undulations, until it reaches the highest part of the great western ridge. A considerable part of the land on this declivity is sharp and good; in many places, however, changing into a wet and tilly substratum, and on the higher portions of the ridge inclining to a black moory

earth. It is interspersed with nodules,—sometimes approaching to the size of boulders,—of white and greenish whin ; and, at a greater depth, with blocks of red sandstone. The sandstone appears again regularly in the beds of two streams which descend in a southerly direction from the ridge, and is there lost in the eastward division of the parish. The summits of the ridge consist of a kind of greywacke slate and greenstone, traversed by narrow veins of quartz, and assuming on the eastern side a slaty structure. The intervening hollows in this acclivity are either low swampy meadows or peat mosses. The plants in this tract are varied, and in the lower hollows will be found all the more common moss and meadow plants.

From the summit of this range to the Dryfe, the descent is sudden and steep, and the land better wooded. The banks of the river are fringed with ash, elm, and oak, of which last a considerable part is coppice about ten or twelve years old, and planted up with larch and Scots fir. The plants most worthy of notice in this descent occur in the ravines upon its sides, which are clothed with natural brushwood, and in the oak coppice.

The Dryfe, nearly from its source, runs through a country composed of greenstone and greywacke-slate in different modifications, assuming in some places a softer texture, and the spotted appearance more peculiarly belonging to the Water-of-Ayr stone, for which it is sometimes used as a substitute. The rock then leaves the bed of the river, and may be traced along a small stream (the Milton Burn,) north-westward to Ravenclough, where it is frequently found veined with quartz, and becomes of a reddish colour, as if tinged with iron. In the opposite and eastern side of the river, it appears in two other small streams, (Hook and Rockhillflat burns,) and in the rounded hills which form the second or eastern ridge, rising between the Dryfe and the Corrie, presenting no marked features, and assuming nearly the same modifications of colour and texture.

This eastern ridge rises from the Dryfe with nearly equal steepness with the western ridge, and reaches nearly an equal height. The ground towards the Corrie Water consists almost entirely of undulating round-backed hills of moor and sheep pasture, partially cultivated, and composed geologically, as stated in the preceding paragraph ; and as it approaches the river, it widens into a narrow plain of alluvial soil, and of rich productive meadows. This ridge is nearly without wood, except on the descent towards the Dryfe, where, as at Balgray and Hook, there are woods of considerable



age and extent. In these a marked difference is perceptible in regard to the growth of the firs on the greenstone, contrasted with those planted on the sandstone gravelly banks of the Annan. Larches thrive remarkably in Mary's Cleugh: spruces, silver firs, and Weymouth pines, planted from twenty-five to thirty or forty years ago, still show every mark of vigorous and healthy growth; and the splendid silver firs at Hook-bridge, and the gigantic larches in Mary's Cleugh, are fine specimens of their respective species at a more advanced age.

The only remarkable trees in the parish are,—The silver firs, fourteen in number, growing at Hook-bridge, planted nearly seventy years ago, and measuring, the largest of them, 7 feet 4 inches in girth, and about 80 feet high; Two larches in Mary's Cleugh, planted about seventy years ago, measuring in height at least 100 feet, and which grew three feet on an average annually for the first twenty years of their existence. An ash in Applegarth church-yard, the age of which is unknown, though tradition says it is between two and three hundred years old; it measures 14 feet in girth at a yard from the ground; it is called the Gorget Tree, from the circumstance of its having, it is said, been used as a pilory in the days of yore. The iron staples which held the collar or gorget were visible not many years ago.

*Zoology.*—The wild animals of the class *Mammalia* in Applegarth, and which are common to the country in general, are about twenty. Among these, there are one or two that may be considered as rarer species. In addition to *Vespertilio emarginatus*, the great bat (*V. altivolans* of White's Selbourne,) has been seen flying about the river with a rapid and powerful flight, and must rank as a very rare animal. *Plecotus auritus* is not uncommon. The water-shrew (*Sorex fodiens*) which is often accounted rare from its retired habits and difficulty of capture, may always be found along the soft and sandy banks of the Annan. The otter is to be seen occasionally, and the fallow-deer sometimes stray from the woods of Raehills. The only animal certainly existing in this parish in former times, and which has now disappeared, is the badger. Thirty or forty years ago this animal was well known here; it was very fond of garden vegetables, particularly carrots; and the last of the race were killed in the old gardens of Jardine-Hall. To the badger may perhaps be added the roebuck, the remains of which have been found in some of the mosses.

*Fishes.*—An enumeration of the different species of fishes fre-

quenting the river Annan will include nearly all those found in this parish. The tributary streams contain only trout, pike, minnow, and eels, and a small proportion during autumn and winter of lesser migratory salmon.—The sea-lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*,) *vulg.* *Ramper-eel*, ascends the river in the end of June and beginning of July to spawn, and continues for a month and sometimes longer.—The small river-lamprey *vulg.* *Nine-eye*, is found early in spring on the edges of sandy banks, and most frequently at the mouth of some small rivulet or ditch. This species is marked doubtfully, as one or two of the lesser lampreys are yet confounded.

Two species of eels inhabit the river and ditches, and are generally confounded as one. They are at once distinguished by the form of the head and snout, which in the one is broad and flattened, and in the other narrow and sharp-pointed. Neither have yet been characterized properly.

The *Pike* is tolerably abundant, and is supplied from the lochs of Lochmaben, which have communication with the Annan. They are seldom taken in the river of more than ten pounds weight, but become fine and in good condition after a short residence.

The *Roach* is found in small numbers in the still parts and back-water of the river, but always of small size. They also are derived from the Lochmaben lochs.

The Chub or *skelly* is very abundant, swimming in large shoals in the swashes or stiller parts of the river. They grow to a considerable size, and spawn gregariously on the shallows in June and July.

The Common minnow, three-spined stickle-back, and loach, are all abundant.

*Salmonidae.*—This important family were formerly, it is well known, much more plentiful in the Annan than at present. About fifty years ago the fisheries in the parish were let, and the salmon were so abundant as to afford considerable emolument to the tacksman, and sport to the angler. At present, no part of the river within the parish would pay the expense of nets. Even at the mouth, where it enters the Solway, the extensive fisheries long established there have fallen two-thirds in value. One cause of this diminution is to be found in the stake-nets erected at the river's mouth, which, by intercepting a great part of the fish, have almost annihilated the fishing in the upper parts of the river, and consequently destroyed the interest which the upper proprietors would otherwise have in preserving them from poachers during the breeding season. Another cause is the improper period fixed for *close-time*, which

commences too early, and opens again before the spawned fish, or at least the greater part of them, have reached the sea. The varieties in the Annan belonging to this family are common salmon in its various states; the Sea Trout.—Two fish are confounded under this name, *Salmo trutta* and *Salmo eriox*, or gray. Both are easily distinguished from the gilse or young salmon by the size and length of the head, and the form of the tail. They commence running from June to the middle of July, according to the season, and generally spawn in the lesser streams.

The Herling (*Salmo albus*) ascends the river during July and August, (though in wet seasons a few are got at the mouth in June,) and continues to run till September. They spawn early, chiefly in the smaller streams, and the kelted or spawned fish return to the sea before March, though they are sometimes met with so late as the middle of April. Experienced anglers are of opinion that in the early run of this fish many young salmon mix, and are killed indiscriminately with them in the Solway nets. It might be of advantage, therefore, that the herling-nets or houses of small mesh should not be permitted before the beginning of July, at which period all the gilses would have attained a size which would render a mistake nearly impossible. The herling weighs generally from 8 oz. to 1 lb.

The Parr.—This species, though often maintained to be the fry of salmon, is very distinct, and possesses characters much more decided than many of the others. It seldom exceeds six inches in length, and is oftener from three to five. It is gregarious. Some of them remain in the river during the whole year; but the adult fish seem to remove to or near the salt water to spawn, thus performing a migration at variance with that of their congeners. At the end of February and in March, the males may be found on the confines of tide-way full of milt, and shedding it on the least handling. They are found in most Scottish rivers that have easy access to the sea; a circumstance which seems essential to their health, and may perhaps account for their not being known above the Falls of Clyde, or any of its upper tributaries. The parr has not yet been accurately described by naturalists; and though it is almost every where abundant, its history is but imperfectly known.

The Common Trout is abundant in all its river varieties. When in season it is a remarkably fine fish, sometimes weighing as much as 5 or 6 lbs., ordinary weight from 1 to 1½ lb. It spawns late. The only fish which now seems extinct in the parish is the perch.

It was formerly found in Perch-hall Loch; and the last got there was in 1814, when the loch was partially drained.

*Reptiles.*—The reptiles found in the parish are, 1. *Lacerta agilis*, common about Dinwiddie Hill and eastern moors. 2. *Vipera communis*, adder, occasionally seen on the eastern side of the Annan, occurring in dark and light-coloured varieties.\* 3. *Triton aquaticus*, water-eft, common in ditches. 4. *Triton vulgaris*, common eft, occasionally found in stone dikes. 5. *Rana temporaria*, common frog. And 6. *Bufo vulgaris*, common toad.

*Birds.*—Besides the more common species, there are to be found in the parish the following

*Land Birds.*—Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), an occasional visitant, passing to and from its eyries in the higher and wilder parts of the county.

Merlin (*F. æsalon*) most frequently seen in winter.

Moor-buzzard (*Circus æruginosus*); one or two of these birds have occasionally frequented the Perch-Hall loch in the parish. They are rare in this county, and appear about the larger swamps and mosses at uncertain intervals.

Hen-harrier, or ringtail, (*C. cyaneus*), after the season of incubation leaves the hills, and, with its brood, visits the low country daily, roosting among whins and long heather.

The four common owls are met with. The rarest is the short-eared (*Otus brachyotus*); it continues during the whole year, and breeds in the high grounds on the eastern border of the parish.

The water-ousel (*Cinclus aquaticus*) is abundant on all the mountain streams, and migrates during winter in considerable numbers to the banks of the Annan.

Among the true thrushes, the missel thrush (*Turdus viscivorous*) deserves notice, on account of its increase during the last few years. Fifteen years ago, they were rarely to be seen; but in consequence of the increased extent of plantations, they are now frequently met with in pairs, or in parties of five or six. A

\* *Note by Sir William Jardine.*—*Anguis fragilis* I have never found in the parish, though there are several stations where it probably may be met with. It has been got in Raehills woods, and is particularly abundant in the woods of Craigeiburn. The *Natrix Dumfriensis* of Fleming, I have never been able to trace in this county, or indeed elsewhere. *Rana esculenta* I think I have seen, but cannot at present speak with certainty, it is not uncommon in Scotland. *Bufo rubeta* or natter-jack is abundant at Southernness, in Galloway. I am not aware of another Scotch habitat of this species.

similar increase has been observed in several other parts of the south of Scotland, and north of England.

All the stone-chats (*Saxicolæ*) are to be found. The most uncommon is *S. rubicola*, of which a few pairs may be met with about waste brushwood, or whin-covers, during the whole year. The red-start (*Phœnicura ruticilla*), is an occasional summer visitant, preferring those parts of the country which abound most in copsewood.

Of the warblers, the three willow-wrens are found. The wood-wren (*Silvia sibilatrix*) is chiefly confined to the woods on Dryfe. Lesser pettychaps (*S. hippolais*) very rare. Greater pettychaps (*S. hortensis*) abundant, and, though seldom observed, is often betrayed by its melody. The black-cap (*S. atricapilla*) is occasionally seen; and the sedge-warbler (*Salicaria phragmites*) in marshes where there is a little cover. The golden-crested-wren (*Regulus cristatus*) breeds here in small numbers; but during winter, when the migratory flocks have arrived, is very abundant.

Of the Titmice, five species are abundant; but the marsh-tit (*Parus palustris*), and cole-tit (*P. ater*), and long-tailed-tit (*P. caudatus*), are found chiefly in winter. A few pairs of the latter breed about Jardine-Hall; but the greater part seek the more extensive woods about Raehills, and return during winter to the lower lands.

The gray wagtail (*Motacilla boarula*) is found here for a few weeks in spring and autumn, when passing to and from their breeding-places among the hills. The yellow wagtail (*M. flava*) very common on the banks of the Annan, and is particularly noticed here as being a bird extremely local in its distribution.

The common meadow and tree pipits are abundant.

The common bunting (*Emberiza miliaria*) is migratory, and is met with in autumn in small flocks, and breeds in the lower pasture-lands. It also is a bird of local distribution. The snow-bunting (*Plectrophanes nivalis*) appears in the higher grounds in immense flocks during winter, and in severe weather visits the edges of the Annan, feeding among the sand or gravel.

The mountain finch (*Fringilla montifringilla*) is a winter visitant in large flocks, delighting to feed on beech-mast.

The siskin (*Carduelis spinus*) appears at uncertain intervals in very large flocks.

The common linnet (*Linaria vulgaris*) abundant. Of the lesser red-pole (*L. cannabina*) a few pairs breed, but large flocks arrive

in spring and autumn, and smaller parties sometimes remain during winter. The mountain linnnet (*L. montium*) is seen but seldom. The northern linnnet (*L. borealis*) has been seen only once or twice. It is not commonly known in Scotland.

Common starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) is found in flocks during autumn and spring, but few in number, having diminished much of late years. In 1819 and 1820, flocks of many hundreds frequented the holms on the Annan, but of late not more than from ten to twenty have been seen together.

The raven (*Corvus corax*) passes over occasionally, betrayed by his croak. The hooded-crow (*C. cornix*) is a rare visitant, and generally found with the common corbie. The jack-daw (*C. monedula*) is sometimes seen varied with white. The jay (*Garrulus glandarius*) is very rare.

Swallows abound. But the numbers of the window-martin (*Hirundo urbica*), and swift (*Cypselus murarius*), have diminished much since the old mansion-house of Jardine-Hall was pulled down; previous to which numerous colonies of swifts built in the rents of the walls, and two or three pairs of martins tenanted every window. Now (1832) a few pairs only of each are to be found; a striking instance of the change of locality, which is constantly taking place. The martins are strictly gregarious, living in large colonies, like rooks and herons.

The spotted fly-catcher (*Muscicapa grisola*) common.

The common night-jar (*Caprimulgus Europæus*) is frequently seen, and is abundant in the opposite parishes of Lochmaben and Johnstone.

The land-rail, corn-crake, (*Crex vulgaris*), very abundant.

The king-fisher (*Alcedo ispida*) occasionally seen on the Annan during winter.

The common creeper (*Certhia familiaris*) abundant in winter. In the breeding season it retires to the more extensive woods.

The turtle-dove (*Columba turtur*) was once shot in Jardine-Hall garden.

The pheasant (*Phasianus torquatus*) was introduced here about ten years ago, and is now tolerably abundant.

The black-cock (*Tetrao tetrix*), and grouse (*Lagopus Scoticus*), abound in the higher parts of the parish; the former has, within these few years, extended to the lower district.

The quail (*Coturnix vulgaris*) is occasionally met with in Sep-

tember and October at the time of migration. In 1819 they bred here, and produced large beevies.

*Water Birds.*—The common heron (*Ardea*) frequents the river from the heronry at Halleaths, a mile or two distant.

The bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*) once frequented this parish, but has not been observed of late years. It is still found, however, in Lochmaben and Johnstone.

The water-rail (*Rallus aquaticus*) is met with in ditches and about Perch-hall Loch. The spotted gallinule, or water-crake, (*Crex porzana*), is found around the same loch. The common coot (*Fulica chloropus*) breeds there also, but leaves it on the approach of winter.

The common curlew (*Numenius arquata*) is very abundant in the upland pastures, where it breeds, retiring on the approach of winter.

The green sandpiper (*Totanus ochropus*) occasionally seen on its migratory passage. Common sandpiper (*T. hypoleucos*), during summer abundant both in Annan and Dryfe. Greenshank (*T. glottis*) is seen sometimes on the Annan. Common woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*), and snipe (*S. gallinago*), and jack-snipe (*S. gallinula*), all common,—the latter migratory.

The lapwing (*Vanellus cristatus*) abundant. Golden plover (*Charadrius plumialis*) breeds in the parish, and is found in large flocks during winter. The common dotterel (*C. morinellus*) was met with last spring in a flock of about twenty birds. A few pairs of the ring dotterel (*C. hiaticula*) breed annually on the Annan.

Common cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) has been seen straggling up the Annan as far as Jardine-Hall.

Golden-eyed duck (*Clangula vulgaris*) ascends the river during winter in small flocks, most of them in the plumage of the first year; they swim up the shallow streams, and destroy considerable quantities of spawn. The scaup (*Fuligula marila*); the tufted duck (*F. cristata*); pochard (*F. ferina*); pintail (*Anas acuta*); and wigeon (*Mareca penelope*), are all found here. The first four are met with but seldom; the last more abundant.

The common wild-duck (*A. boschas*), and teal (*A. crecca*), are abundant, but diminishing in numbers yearly.

The wild swan (*Cygnus ferus*) is sometimes seen in severe winters. The bean goose (*Anser ferus*) in flocks frequent the flat moors and holms in the same season. The white-fronted goose (*A. erythropus*) is sometimes seen in small flocks. The goosander

(*Mergus merganser*), male and female, ascend the Annan during winter in small flocks, in which, like the golden-eyes, those of immature plumage, and females are most abundant.

The little grebe (*Podiceps minor*) is common in the river during winter in pairs, or in small parties of five or six. The dusky grebe (*P. cornutus*) has been met with once or twice.

The red-throated diver (*Colymbus septentrionalis*) has been once met with in immature plumage, or as the speckled diver of Bewick.

The lesser black-backed gull (*Larus marinus*) is to be seen on the river during spring and summer almost every day.

The common gull (*L. canus*) in autumn and winter frequent the pasture and plowed fields in considerable flocks; the greater part, in the plumage which gives them the name of winter-gull.

The black-headed gull (*L. ridibundus*) breeds here, and comes occasionally during winter, frequenting the river, or following the plough.

The common tern (*Sterna hirundo*) is sometimes seen fishing in the Annan in spring and autumn.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Historical Events.*—The only historical event worth noticing, connected with the parish, is stated in the following extract, from Chalmers' Caledonia, who gives as his authority, "the Royal Wardrobe Accounts:" "On the 7th of July 1300, Edward I. who was then at Applegarth, on his way to the siege of Caerlaverock, made an oblation of seven shillings at St Nicholas' altar in the parish church at Applegarth, and another oblation of a like sum in the same church, at the altar of St Thomas a Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, in honour of this martyr, whose translation was commemorated on this day."

*Resident Proprietors, &c.*—Sir William Jardine, Bart. well known for his attainments in natural history, and particularly for his valuable works on ornithology, resides constantly at his seat at Jardine-Hall in this parish. The land-owners are six, viz. Sir William Jardine, Bart., John Herries Maxwell, Esq. of Munshes and Dinwiddie, John James Hope Johnstone, Esq. of Annandale, James Seton Wightman, Esq. of Courance and Lamontie, Alexander Rodgeron, Esq. of Sibbaldbie, and the Honourable David Williamson Robertson Ewart, one of the Senators of the College of Justice.

*Parochial Registers.*—The earliest entry of baptisms is in September 1694,—of marriages December 1694, and of deaths 1777.



From the first mentioned date to April 1715, the register is regular and complete; from that time to 1749, none were kept; from 1749 to 1777, it was kept partially, and from the last date to 1832, it is regular and complete, in all the three branches.

*Antiquities.*—Till within these few years, the traces were visible of the foundation of a large oblong building, on the moat of Applegarth, now forming part of the minister's garden. Whether it had been, as it is supposed, the site of the church visited by Edward in 1300, or of some humbler and more modern erection, cannot now be ascertained. In trenching the moat for garden ground, a few rough squared blocks of red sandstone were dug up; and probably it had undergone the operation of trenching at some former period, in order to procure building stones. A small portion of carved stone was found at the same time, and is now in the minister's possession, in appearance part of one of those ornamental stone crosses which in former times, were the usual appendages of Romish churches, and many of which are to be seen still standing in front of ancient monasteries in the Highlands and Hebrides. Within 200 yards of the manse, and on a small eminence, stood till lately an arched vault, the remains of one of those border keeps so common in the neighbourhood of the debateable land. It has now fallen in.—About 500 yards farther to the eastward, there were found eighteen or twenty years ago, about four or five feet under the surface, the remains of a large chest, or rather its iron work, the wood having long since decayed, consisting of corner-bands, hinges, portions of the lock, &c. all of the *fleur-de-lys* pattern, besides a piece of ornamental work of iron, the purpose of which it is not easy to discover. It has been conjectured, in the absence of every thing like evidence, that this chest may have formed part of the equipage belonging to Edward,—as it is stated in the *Caledonia*, that the king waited some days at Applegarth the arrival of his baggage. These articles are now in the possession of Sir William Jardine.—A venerable thorn called “the Albie Thorn,” stands in a field within 500 yards of the church, which it is said was planted on the spot where Bell of Albie fell, while in pursuit of the Maxwells after the battle of Dryfe sands.—A similar memorial marks the spot, about half a-mile distant in Dryfesdale parish, where it is said Lord Maxwell himself, at that time warden of the Western Marches, was killed.—Part of the ruins still remain of the parish church of Sibbaldbie, now annexed to Applegarth.—Roman stations are visible in several places. On Dinwiddie hill and on

Cleugh-Heads hill, which is now planted, there are two of these stations still very distinct, and on White-Castle knowe, in the same range, there is one which has more the appearance of a beacon hill of British, than of Roman origin. A Roman road also traverses the parish in a northerly direction; it may be traced in some places for several hundred yards above the level of the adjoining ground. It appears to have led from a strong station, in the farm of Dryfeholm, in the neighbouring parish of Dryfesdale, in the direction towards Moffat.—Ten or twelve years ago, a gold coin of James VI. was found in the farm of Belcot Hill; and a few months ago a French gold coin was dug up in the garden at Dinwiddie Mains, of Francis I. in a good state of preservation; they are both in the hands of Sir William Jardine.

*Modern Buildings.*—The only modern buildings worthy of note are the mansion house of Jardine-Hall, built in 1814; that of Hook built in 1806, a property formerly belonging to Edward Armstrong, Esq. now to John James Hope Johnston, Esq.; the parish church erected in 1761, and the manse in 1806. There are three corn-mills and one lint-mill. The materials employed in the erection of Jardine-Hall, and the manse and church, are red sandstone, taken from a quarry on Corncockle muir in Lochmaben parish. Hook house is built of greenstone, from the bed of the river Dryfe, with the exception of the hewn work, which is of red sandstone.

### III.—POPULATION.

From a minute statement in the handwriting of Mr Dugald Simpson, minister of Applegarth, in 1696, it appears that the examinable persons amounted at that period to 610. The whole population would therefore be somewhere about 830.

In 1755 it amounted to	897
In 1777 to - - -	943
But in 1792 it fell to -	741
In 1801 it rose again to -	795
In 1811 to - - -	841
In 1821 to - - -	943

and at last census in 1831, the population was 999. The decrease between the years 1777 and 1792 is attributed in the former Statistical Account, and perhaps correctly, to the system adopted about that period by land-owners, of joining a number of small farms into one. The increase since that period may be ascribed, partly to the improved system of husbandry creating a demand for labourers, and partly to the natural progress of popula-

tion,—the births in the parish nearly doubling the deaths,—a progress kept in check, however, in a slight degree by emigration to Canada. It may be as well, perhaps, to remark here, in order to account for the small number of deaths compared with the births, that there are no towns, villages, or manufactories in the parish, and that all that portion of the population consisting of farm-servants is a shifting population,—most of them being at the healthiest period of life, and hardly any of them remaining in the parish during life,—that is to say, long enough to add to the bills of mortality.

1. Number of families in the parish,	- - - -	161
of families chiefly employed in agriculture,	- - - -	69
chiefly employed in trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	- - - -	37
2. Number of unmarried men, bachelors or widowers, upwards of 50 years of age,	- - - -	5
of unmarried women, including widows, upwards of 45,	- - - -	9
3. The average number of births yearly, for the last 7 years,	- - - -	23
of deaths,	- - - -	11½
of marriages,	- - - -	7
4. The number of persons at present under 15 years of age,	- - - -	393
upwards of 70,	- - - -	18

There are four fatuous individuals, and one deaf and dumb.

*Character, &c. of the People.*—The habits of the people are sober and industrious; and, in regard to cleanliness, they may justly claim their full share in the improvement in this respect, acknowledged to have taken place among the Scottish tenantry. From the high prices of agricultural produce during the late war, and the consequently high rents, the landholders of Applegarth and Sibbaldbie considered their tenants as justly entitled to improved accommodation. The farm-houses, accordingly, are nearly all new, and in general very commodious; and the occupiers, in their improved circumstances, encouraged by the liberality of their landlords, and willing to second them in matters so materially connected with their own comfort, furnished their houses in a style of neatness strikingly contrasted with their condition twenty or twenty-five years ago. Habits of cleanliness were almost, of course, naturally formed, and now happily influence both their in-door and out-door arrangements, their dress, and in general their whole style of living. At the same time, they are altogether free from the error of living above their means. Indeed, it has been alleged by some of the high-spirited farmers in some neighbouring parishes, that they go to the opposite extreme. It would be well, perhaps, if we could say of Scotch husbandmen in general, what may be

said with truth of the farmers of Applegarth, that they have not discarded the good old habits of simple and economical living. The ordinary fare of the tenantry is certainly changed so far, that none of them now breakfast but on tea and coffee, or dine without animal food on their tables. Yet it is in strict moderation, and suitable only to their means; and their meals, under ordinary circumstances, are never followed by wine or ardent spirits. The common food of the tradesmen and day-labourers is, of course, a degree more economical. In truth, to the man whose days' wages do not exceed 2s. the meal-chest and the potatoe-bing must always be the great resource. Yet many of this class, while deeply sensible of the value of such a resource, and thankful to Providence for its general abundance, are not without additional comforts of a substantial kind. Some of them are able to purchase a sheep, or a portion of a fat cow, to be salted for their winter store; and in a parish where almost every cottar keeps a pig, and some a milch cow, anything like severe destitution can hardly be supposed to exist. All classes of the people enjoy, therefore, in a reasonable degree, the comforts and advantages of that kind of society to which they are inclined. The present depressed state of agriculture bears hard on the tenants of Applegarth as on others. They find, that, to make money by farming, is at present out of the question; and the tenant who can pay his rent without encroaching on his capital, if he has any, considers himself fortunate. In these circumstances, they can hardly be expected to be *contented*; but they may be *resigned* to an evil which it is not in their power to remedy. The other classes,—tradesmen and labourers,—are too intimately connected with the tenantry, not to share with them in their feelings and deprivations.

Poaching in game cannot be laid to the charge of the inhabitants of this parish; and though the same cannot be said, with regard to poaching in the salmon fisheries, it is certain that even that is on the decline.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

##### *Agriculture and Rural Economy.*—

Of the 11,500 imperial acres of which the parish consists, there are either cultivated or occasionally in tillage, - - - - -	7392
Of lands waste, or in permanent pasture, a portion of which has been at one time in crop, but not within the last 50 years, and including 60 or 70 acres of moss, there are, - - - - -	3777
Of these 3777 acres, a few hundreds might, by a judicious application of ca-	

pital, be rendered more productive, and, in fact, such improvement is now in partial operation.

Acres incurably barren, or reclaimable only at a cost disproportioned to the profit, included in the above,	-	-	-	-	from 150 to 200
In undivided common,	-	-	-	-	0
Under wood,	-	-	-	-	331

It may be observed here, that, on the Dryfe division of the parish, there was formerly a considerable extent of old wood, chiefly oak and ash, which was cut down about twenty years ago, and the ground replanted with larch, and other species of the fir tribe. On Balgray, the value of the timber annually cut and sold amounts to about L. 50. The management of the young woods throughout the parish is of the most approved kind. The land, previous to its being planted, is thoroughly drained and well-fenced, and thinning and pruning carefully attended to. As a natural consequence, the plantations are all in a very thriving state.

*Rent of Land, Wages, Prices, &c.*—The average rent of the arable land may be from 16s. to 18s. per imperial acre. There is in the parish almost every variety of soil, and while some of it, consisting chiefly of alluvial tracts, is let as high as L. 2, there is much more at 12s., 10s., and even as low as 7s. and 6s. per acre. The gross rental of the whole parish is L. 6680. As to the average rent of grazing it is difficult to speak with perfect accuracy. But, perhaps, for the summer, it may be at the rate of L. 3, or L. 3, 10s. for a cow or full-grown ox; from 5s. 6d. to 5s. 9d. for hill-fed sheep; and from 10s. to 15s. for those grazed on richer pasture, during the whole year.

The average rate of wages of good ploughmen, exclusive of board and lodging, is about L. 12 per annum; of women-servants, L. 5; of day-labourers, without victuals, 1s. 6d. per day during summer, and 1s. 4d. in winter. In hay and corn harvest, the wages rise to 2s., and occasionally a little more. To masons, carpenters, and other trades requiring apprenticeship, from 2s. 6d. to 3s. is given. The wages of day-labourers generally, in this parish, are kept low by the competition they encounter from the inhabitants of the neighbouring villages, and especially from Irish labourers domiciled there.

The rate of mason, carpenter, and other mechanical work, is as follows:

Building rubble wall, including materials and carriage, per rood of 36 yards,	-	-	-	-	L. 5 0 0
Hewing, including cost of stone, per foot,	-	-	-	-	0 0 7
Plastering, per square yard,	-	-	-	-	0 0 8

Flagging, per yard,	-	-	-	-	-	-	L. 0 3 0
Diking with dry stone, per rood of 19 feet, from 5s. to	-	-	-	-	-	-	0 7 0
Slatting with Welsh slate, per yard,	-	-	-	-	-	-	0 2 0
With Lancashire do. per yard,	-	-	-	-	-	-	0 3 0
Carpenter work ; roofing, with Scots fir large couples, per yard,	-	-	-	-	-	-	0 1 6
With small do.	-	-	-	-	-	-	0 1 9
With American timber, 1s 9d. to	-	-	-	-	-	-	0 2 0
Flooring and joisting per yard,	-	-	-	-	-	-	0 3 6
Windows, per foot,	-	-	-	-	-	-	0 2 10
Doors, full mounted, from 12s. 6d. each to	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 1 0
Farm cart, with iron axle-tree,	-	-	-	-	-	-	10 0 0
With wood do.	-	-	-	-	-	-	8 0 0
Lothian plough, complete,	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 12 6
Scotch plough,	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 11 6
Pair of harrows, complete,	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 5 0
Wheelbarrows,	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 0 0

*Breeds of Live Stock.*—Except on one dairy farm, where the stock is Ayrshire, the cattle kept here are of the Galloway breed. They are well suited for this country, being hardy, good feeders, capable of attaining to a large size, and much in request for the markets in Norfolk, Suffolk, &c. where they are fattened for Smithfield. Much attention has of late years been paid to the improvement of these animals in this parish as in the rest of the district, and we now rival Galloway itself in the purity of our breed and the symmetry of our bullocks. This improvement has been effected by the introduction of the most approved stock from their indigenuous pastures by the allurements of high prices for their bulls and cows. Of sheep, the Cheviot breed constitutes the stock on the hill pasture in the parish, while on the lower and arable lands there are some small stocks of the Leicester breed. But the chief purpose for which any species of this kind of stock is kept here being to eat off the turnip crop, and for which Highland widders are generally purchased, equal attention in breeding sheep to that bestowed on black cattle is not paid.

*Husbandry.*—The course of husbandry pursued is the system in more or less perfection, of alternate white and green crops, though in many instances with a considerable portion of the farm in pasture. This is rendered necessary by the pretty extensive rearing of cattle. Turnips have been, for the last few years, cultivated largely, and consumed on the ground by sheep,—a valuable innovation on the old system, and one which has increased materially the produce of corn crops. If any “specialty” distinguishes the agriculture of the parish, it is the quantity of pork produced. Throughout all Annandale this is an important article of commerce, and by

no other parish is it supplied more abundantly or of better quality than by Applegarth. No fewer than 620 carcasses are here fed and sold annually; and averaging them at fourteen imperial stones each, and assuming the average price to be 5s. per stone, there is thus for this one commodity brought into the parish every winter £.2170, a sum amounting to nearly one-third of the rent of the arable land belonging to it. The animals are reared chiefly on potatoes,—they are grazed during summer, and fattened on boiled potatoes and oatmeal.

The following may be considered as the most prominent defects in the husbandry of this parish, as well as of the country in general. Sufficient attention is not, generally speaking, bestowed on the draining of the land, nor on cleaning it when under naked fallow or green crop, nor on rearing and preserving the fences, of which proprietors would do well to take the chief charge on themselves; while, at the same time, the course of cropping is rather severe on many of the farms. Neither is sufficient care taken to increase the dung-hill, that “mother of the meal chest.” Too many cattle are kept during winter, and consequently they are on short allowance. Lime, also, is, owing perhaps to the great distance of the limekilns, in general bestowed in too stinted measure; and though the dose is more frequently repeated than in districts where the mode of application is better understood, the effect is by no means so beneficial as when a sufficient quantity is administered at once. It is not doubted, however, that most, if not all of these defects, would soon be remedied, if agriculture were once more in a prosperous state. Already, in fact, in some of our farms these defects are hardly discernible. At an early period, and until the middle of the last century, several of the largest farms in the north-eastern quarter of the parish were occupied by a number of small tenants, who ploughed exclusively on the hill grounds, to the extent of some hundreds of acres more than is now even occasionally cultivated. A change of system about 1760 and 1770, threw these farms entirely into sheep-walks, occupied each by one tenant; and they continued in a state of pasturage, becoming gradually coarser and more unproductive, till within the last ten or twelve years, when the occupiers have found it advantageous to lime and break up extensively, generally laying out the land immediately in grass for sheep pasturage. And these tracts of land being in most cases possessed by able tenants, the cultivation will probably extend to all the dry ground in similar circumstances.

*Embanking.*—In the way of embanking, much permanent benefit has been secured by the extensive operations of the late Sir Alexander Jardine, who protected from the floods in the river Annan a very considerable breadth of the richest lands in the parish, thereby fitting them for the growth of wheat, their natural and most profitable produce. The embankments are carefully kept up, and nothing farther remains to be done in that way.

The ordinary duration of leases is for fifteen years; and for nineteen or twenty-one years where the lands let are unproductive, or require great outlay by the tenant.

The general management and productiveness of the land have increased much of late years. Soon after the commencement of this century, farmers, stimulated by high prices, began to give attention to the accounts of better and more liberal systems of agriculture, which were emanating from more improved districts; Roxburghshire and the Lothians particularly. The example was followed, and, conjoined with favourable markets, created capital which was in many cases freely employed in farther ameliorations. Rents, as leases expired, kept pace, or nearly so, with the rise of prices and increased produce. But when these flourishing times began to change in 1815, and continued to decline in subsequent years, the rents did not by any means fall in equal proportion. Since that period, many of the seasons have proved unfavourable, as in 1816, 1823, and 1830. Many of the tenants have been stripped of their former gains, and an effectual bar placed in the way of any thing like very extensive improvement.

One great obstacle to improvement on the part of the tenants is the diminution of their capital in consequence of the fall of prices, unproductive seasons, and disproportioned high rents. These over-stretched rents are not attributable to the landlords, who themselves, heavily burdened, naturally take what they can obtain in the market from good tenants. The fact seems to be, that there are too many engaged in agriculture, or, in other words, the competition for farms is so eager, that land has not been allowed to fall to its fair value. Profits, therefore, are nothing, and, in too many instances, less than nothing; so that tenants find it difficult to carry into effect plans which appear and would prove beneficial. In these circumstances, the aid of the landlord seems indispensable, at least where extensive improvements are contemplated. But the fluctuating nature of the times during the last fifteen years, in respect to agriculture, and the fall of rents,—for fallen they



are to a considerable extent in this parish, even to the amount of 30 per cent.—operated injuriously here. At the same time, however, landlords hold out every other encouragement, by preferring judicious and liberal tenants, assisting such to some extent, admitting no unfair restrictions in leases, and, in short, by every indulgence and accommodation that can be devised, short of heavy outlay. The late Sir Alexander Jardine expended, with great judgment, more money than any other proprietor of the day, in building farm-steadings, and inclosing and subdividing his estate. When he succeeded to this fine property in 1806, the farm-houses were comfortless, ill-thatched huts, and the inclosures few, and of the most useless description. He instantly applied himself to remedy these deficiencies, and in a very few years produced in the property the most marked and beneficial change. About thirty farms, constituting nearly the whole of his estate in this parish, received new steadings of the most convenient and substantial kind. And though the increase of produce may, in a few instances, have rendered additional offices necessary, the commodious and liberal scale of the farm-buildings in general, mark him the foremost man of his day and district as an enlightened improver of landed property; and his character as the kindest of landlords is stamped on the hearts of the Applegarth tenantry by the memory of countless acts of beneficence.

*Produce.*—Average gross amount of raw produce raised in the parish, as nearly as can be ascertained, is as follows :

Produce of grain of all kinds, whether cultivated for the food of man or domestic animals, including straw, - - -	L. 11381 13 10
Of potatoes, turnips, cabbages, beet, and other plants cultivated in the fields for food, - - -	3318 8 9
Of hay, whether meadow or cultivated, . - - -	2170 5 0
Of flax, - - - - -	55 0 0
Of land in pasture, rating it at L. 3 per cow, or full-grown ox, grazed for the season,—at 15s. per ewe, or full-grown sheep, pastured for the year, - - - - -	4305 13 0
Of gardens and orchards, - - - - -	30 0 0
Of the annual thinning and periodical felling of woods, plantations, and copse, - - - - -	80 0 0
Total yearly value of raw produce raised, - - -	<u>L. 21291 0 7</u>

*Societies.*—There are two associations in Annandale for the improvement of husbandry, particularly of the breed of cattle, one in the upper, and the other in the lower district. Of this last district

Applegarth forms a portion, and many of its premiums have been gained by tenants in the parish.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Markets and Means of Communication.*—There is no market-town or other town in the parish; but the towns of Lockerbie and Lochmaben are in the immediate neighbourhood. The great road from Glasgow to London by Carlisle runs through the parish to the extent of five miles; and on this road the Glasgow and London mail-coach travels daily. An additional light-mail has been recently established, drawn by two horses, and travelling at the rate of eleven miles per hour. There is also almost every year an opposition coach on the same line of road. Two bridges cross the Annan; one on the Glasgow line, at the 63d mile-stone from that city and 31st from Carlisle, built in 1818; the other on the road leading from Dumfries, across Annandale into Eskdale, rebuilt in 1827, both in excellent condition. There are also two good stone bridges, and a wooden one for foot passengers, over the Dryfe, in the Sibbaldbie part of the parish.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church is situated at the lower extremity of the parish, almost within a stone's cast of Lochmaben parish on the west, and of Dryfesdale on the south;—of course very inconveniently for the greater part of the population; many of the people having to travel four, five, and some even six miles, to attend the public duties of the Sabbath. The church was built in 1760; the seating was renewed in 1808, and a private gallery built, by Sir Alexander Jardine. The walls were *stoothed*, or done with lath and plaster, in 1822; and it is now in a very tolerable state of repair, and can accommodate 380 sitters. There are no free sittings. The manse was built in 1805. The glebe consists of six and a-half acres of good land, and would let for a guinea and a-half per Scots acre. The stipend consists of seventeen chalders of victual, half in meal and half in barley, payable according to the fiars of the county. Converted into money, the stipend, at an average of the last seven years, is L. 280 per annum. There is no place of public worship besides the parish church. There are 129 families, comprehending 892 individuals of all ages, belonging to the Established church; and 23 families, comprehending 107 individuals, belonging to the Secession. The average number of communicants is above 200.

Collections have been made for the Highland Schools and India

Mission, and will probably be repeated; the amount of each was about L. 8. Occasional collections have been made for other public charities; and a yearly subscription of one guinea is given to the Dumfries Royal Infirmary.

*Education.*—There are three schools in the parish; two of them parochial, and the third a boarding-school for females. In the first school, the branches taught, besides the ordinary ones, are Greek, Latin, French, geometry, geography. In the second the learned languages are not taught. In the ladies' school, the branches taught are English, writing, arithmetic, French, geography, drawing, and needle-work. The parochial teachers have salaries,—the one the maximum of L. 34, 5s., the other L. 17, 2s. 6d. The fees of the larger school may amount to nearly L. 30, of the smaller to L. 15. Both teachers have substantial dwelling-houses and gardens. The lowest amount of expense of educating a child in these schools, as respects the mere elements, is 8s. per annum; and the highest, including all the advanced branches, L. 1, 10s. All the children in the parish upwards of six years of age can read, or are attending school for that purpose.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid regularly is 10. Among these the sum expended is L. 30, 10s., making the average annual allowance to each individual L. 3, 1s. It may be proper to notice, that three of these paupers are in such circumstances of age, disease, and destitution, as to require among them L. 15, 9s. thus reducing the average allowance of the other seven to L. 2, 3s. each. There are also several indigent persons who receive occasional aid, to the amount of L. 7, 6s. 2½d. Total sum expended annually, L. 37, 16s. 2½d. The average annual amount of church collections for the last seven years, is L. 26, 2s. 4½d.; of interest of capital, L. 3, 12s. 9½d.; of donations, L. 9, 7s.; and from other sources not permanent, L. 1, 13s. 10½d. In addition to these funds, there is a sum mortgaged to the poor on the estate of Applegarth, by Sir John Jardine in 1745, of L. 3, 6s. 8d. per annum. Total funds, L. 44, 2s. 8½d. Generally speaking, there is an unwillingness to seek parochial relief. But it must be acknowledged that this independent feeling is not so strong as it was thirty or forty years ago; nor is there so ready a disposition, as ought to prevail among the substantial classes, to prevent their poorer relatives from coming on the poor's roll.

*Fairs, Inns, &c.*—In 1685, Sir Alexander Jardine, then pro-

prietor of Applegarth, obtained a Parliamentary grant of the right to hold four annual fairs and a weekly market at the village of Applegarth. These fairs have long since ceased to be held; but what is said to be the site of the market cross is still visible, and has witnessed within these thirty years the legal process of pointing cattle. There is but one inn, or public-house, in the parish; and it is frequented chiefly by travellers on the Glasgow road. The reprehensible practice of allowing toll-keepers to take out the spirit licence prevailed here for a year or two; but now malt-liquor only is allowed to be there sold. But even this privilege, affording as it does an opportunity of dealing clandestinely in ardent spirits, ought not, and it is hoped will not, be continued.

*Fuel.*—The ordinary fuel is peat. Every tenant having a right to fuel by his lease, the expense consists solely in working and leading it,—perhaps at the rate of 8d. or 10d. per cart-load. Coals, of which not a great deal is used, are brought from Annan, a distance of eleven miles from the south boundary of the parish. To that town they are sea-borne from the collieries of Cumberland.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The difference between the present state of the parish and that which existed at the time of the last Statistical Account, is, as may naturally be expected, very great, though, from the want of minuteness in that account, it is not easy to point out in many particulars the precise degree of improvement. The mode of living is more comfortable; while the good old habits of domestic economy have not been impaired. The management of the land is more judicious, and of course it is greatly more productive. In one particular, the improvement is striking; at that period there was little or no wheat raised in the parish, and but a small quantity of artificial hay. Now the yearly value of the former article grown in Applegarth will amount to between L. 5000 and L. 6000, and of the latter to L. 1000 at least. The rental at the same period was between L. 2000 and L. 3000; it is now nearly L. 7000, and was a few years ago L. 8000.

*March 1834.*

# PARISH OF TUNDERGARTH.

PRESBYTERY OF LOCHMABEN, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.

THE REV. THOMAS LITTLE, A. M. MINISTER.

---

## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name, Boundaries, &c.*—THE name of this parish has been commonly rendered “Castle of the Garden;” but more probably it is nothing more than the British and Irish *Ton-der-garth*, which literally means “the inclosure at the oak-hill.” The form of the parish is very inconvenient; its extreme length being about 12 or 13 miles, and its breadth varying from about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 miles. It lies on the left bank of Milk-Water, the windings of which form two triangles, both obtuse. It is bounded on the west by the parishes of St Mungo and Dryfesdale, and the united parishes of Hutton and Corrie; on the north-east by Westerkirk; and on the south by Middlebie and Hoddam.

*Topographical Appearances.*—Its surface is undulating, and precipitous throughout. There are no hills of any altitude deserving particular notice, with the exception of Grange Fell and Crieve, which are about 900 feet above the level of the sea. The valleys are so deep by attrition and other causes, as to form very strikingly marked features in its varied landscape. In its whole length it is beautifully picturesque along the banks of the Milk, affording many very fine subjects for the pencil, especially in the neighbourhood of the manse, and some places farther down. The climate partakes generally of the character of the district, which is proverbially moist.

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—There are no indications of coal in this parish, nor is there any trace of sandstone. The formations are composed of transition rock, alternating with transition-slate and clay-slate, occasionally passing into greenstone; subordinate to all which is greywacke in very thick beds. These are the general characters of the rocks where they appear, from the south-west end of the parish for about eight miles. There is no ironstone, or limestone, or basalt. The amygdaloidal range passes to the south on the borders of the parish from Torbeckhill by Burnswark, Newfield, &c. overlying coarse-grained sandstone, colours

varying from bright-red to gray and streaked, and sometimes pearly white, as at Burnswark. In this last are nodules of a dark-brown colour, from the presence of oxide of iron. This range, however, though bordering on Tundergarth, is in the parishes of Middlebie and Hoddam. Peat abounds in the upper district of the parish; but in the lower district it has of late years been very scarce.

The soil is various; but where cultivated is generally fertile, though in some places rather hard, thin, and rocky. There is very little holm or table-land. Towards the hills, the soil is cold, with a till or gravelly subsoil, and indurated clay. The greater part of the lands are much exposed to west-north-west and easterly winds; and, rising abruptly from the Milk, have very little shelter. More than one-half of the surface consists of fertile sheep-walks.

A trial was made for lead some years ago on the farm of Hazzleberry, and a level was driven some distance into the hill. There were indications of the ore in a vein of iron mica; but the search was not successful, and was finally abandoned. A search was also made for lead many years ago in Grange Fell, with similar success. Another trial was made in the bottom of a very deep glen on the estate of Crawthwaite, the property of George Graham, Esq. by a level which remains still open, or was so lately. Antimony was actually found. Some fine specimens of the ore were for many years in the possession of the late Thomas Johnstone, Esq. of Grange. It is probable the ore was not found in sufficient quantity to warrant the expense of farther search. The strata of the whole glen and hills on each side are transition-slate and clay-slate, the latter greatly abounding: the debris of it covers the slopes of the mountains. It is to be regretted that so few trials have been made in this part of the country, especially for coals, which are believed by all to exist in abundance. Were coals found in the neighbourhood of the many lime quarries, the price of lime would be much reduced. They are at present brought from the north of England by sea, and are very dear. The man who discovers coal in this part of the country will be entitled to be ranked among the benefactors of his countrymen.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Accounts of the Parish.*—There is a document in the possession of the family of Grange, containing an account very illustrative of border manners, at the period to which it refers.\*

\* From this document it appears, that at the funeral of Thomas Johnstone of Purbsiehall, which was some time prior to 1629, a fight took place between the

*Historical Notices.*—The church and parish of Tundergarth appear to be of ancient establishment, seeing the advowsons never belonged to the Bishops of Glasgow. The manor of Tundergarth seems to have belonged to the family of Johnstone, where they had a castle, of which, however, no part now remains. The prevailing name was formerly Johnstone. The lands and patronage of the church belonged in the reign of James IV. to Lord Herries, in whose family they remained till the union of the crowns. From Lord Herries they passed to Murray of Cockpool, whose successors, the Viscounts of Stormont, held them in the reign of Charles II. The patronage at present belongs to Lord Mansfield.

*Land-owners.*—The property in this parish is very much divided. The chief landed proprietors are Thomas Beattie, Esq. of Crieve, John Swan, Esq. of Whitstonehill, and William Johnstone, Esq. of Grange.

*Parochial Registers.*—The parochial registers have been very irregularly kept hitherto; but measures have now been taken to have them regularly kept in future.

*Antiquities.*—In regard to antiquities, the oldest seemingly of which this parish can boast is a Roman road, discovered a few years ago on the north side, and passing from the Roman camp on Burnswark Hill, in a direction north-west. Traces of it have been found from thence to Closeburn; that being the tract by which the Romans under Agricola forced their way into Strath Cluid. The road was covered with about nine inches of earth. It is formed of broad flat stones, well packed together with water-sand in the interstices. It is about eight feet wide.

There are still to be seen in many places small entrenched camps or *Birrens*, as they are called. They are all on elevated situations; generally of a round form, very prominent, and in good preservation; and they consist of a strong vallum and fosse, without any outworks. The area seldom exceeds an acre, and is often less. It is conjectured that they were constructed during the long feuds and border wars by the Septs or lairds, to protect themselves and cattle from the English, and from one another. It is probable, however, that some of these may be of an earlier date,

Johnstones of Tundergarth and those of Lookerbie, in which three of the latter family and two of the former were killed. A feud, it is said, existed at the time between the two families, and to prevent any quarrelling, the family of Tundergarth were not invited to the funeral. However, some of them came to the burying-ground, and a quarrel, as had been dreaded, taking place, the consequences were as we have stated.

and may be what are called British Fortifications; many of them still retain the name of Castle. In breaking up some of these in the lower part of the parish, especially at Castlehill and Cairn-hill, opposite the manse, urns have been found containing human bones and ashes. Some of these urns were in a good state of preservation.

There appear to be some Druidical remains on the farm of Whiteholm, the property of Mr Swan. They consist of seven erect stones, forming a semicircle, and are by the common people called the Seven Brethren. Among these remains, bones have been found; but whether human or not, has not been ascertained. About a mile distant from these remains, on the property belonging to the same gentleman, there existed until lately two cairns of pretty large dimensions; and there was one of similar form and size also on the estate of Grange. When the stones were carried away for building fences and other purposes, there were found in the heart of them human skeletons, contained in something resembling stone coffins.

In the neighbourhood of that on the property of Mr Swan, there are several tumuli resembling graves.

### III.—POPULATION.

The population, as ascertained by Census of 1801, was	484
of 1811, -	522
of 1821, -	518
of 1831, -	530*
1. Number of families in the parish, - - -	97
of families chiefly employed in agriculture, - -	47
chiefly employed in trade, manufactures, or handicraft, -	23
2. Number of unmarried men, bachelors or widowers, upwards of 50 years of age, 13	
of unmarried women, including widows, upwards of 45, -	7

There were lately 9 persons above eighty years of age, 3 of whom were in their eighty-fifth year, and 1, a female, in her eighty-sixth year, all in the upper district of the parish. Several individuals have been known, within the memory of the present generation, to have reached their ninetieth year and upwards.

The number of proprietors of land of L. 50 a-year in value, and upwards, is 19 or 20. The total number of proprietors in the parish is 27, of whom 13 are resident.

*Character of the People.*—The people in general are sober and industrious; seem satisfied with their condition and circumstances;

\* The difference betwixt the population as here stated, and the account of it as given in when the census was last taken, may be owing to the season of the year when the two accounts were taken.



and, as there are no great landed proprietors or farmers among them, they seem all pretty much on a footing of equality. Poaching in game has certainly prevailed to a considerable extent; and though strong measures have been of late taken for its suppression, it will always prevail, to a certain extent, where property is so much divided.

## IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture and Rural Economy.*—

Land cultivated,	-	-	-	-	2829	Imp. Acres.
Never cultivated,	-	-	-	-	7643	
Capable of being cultivated,	-	-	-	-	230	
In undivided common.	-	-	-	-	0	
Under wood,	-	-	-	-	0	
Planted. Larch, Scots fir, spruce fir, interspersed with some little oak, ash, and other sorts of <i>hard</i> wood,					97½	
Indigenous. Birch, thorn, mountainous ash, hazel, &c.					62	
					—	159½

The average amount and value of gross produce yearly raised in the parish, as far as can be ascertained, is as follows:—

Of grain of all kinds cultivated for the food of man and of the domestic animals,	-	-	-	-	L. 2425	0	0
Of potatoes and turnips (no fields of cabbage, &c.) cultivated in the fields for food,	-	-	-	-	1675	5	0
Of hay, meadow and cultivated,	-	-	-	-	1055	16	8
Of flax, &c. cultivated for the arts, none.							
Of land in pasture, rating it at L. 2, 10s. and L. 3 per cow, grazed for the season; (with a small exception, at 25s. for cattle fed on coarse ground; ) at 5s. per ewe, or full-grown sheep pastured for the year,	-	-	-	-	2648	0	0
No revenue from woods worth mentioning; no gardens; no orchards; no mines; no fisheries, or sources of other profit than has been mentioned.							

---

L. 7804 1 8

At an average, 167 swine may be fed annually, which, at L. 3 each, will amount to L. 501.

The rental of the parish is about L. 3000.

*Live Stock.*—The sheep kept in this district are all Cheviot; and the cattle are generally of the Galloway breed. A good deal of attention has been paid to the improvement of sheep for these last twenty years, by procuring the best Cheviot rams from the east border. It has been found of late to answer a good purpose, on some particular farms, to cross a part of the ewes with Leicester rams. Though their lambs do not answer to be kept here as store-sheep, they command very high prices for the English market.

Much attention has also been paid to the breeding of black-cattle, by selecting the best Galloway bulls that can be got in the district.

*Rate of Labour.*—The rate of labour is for men during summer, 1s. 8d. per day, and for women, 1s.,—sometimes less; and during winter for men, 1s., and for women, 6d. Artisans are paid from 1s. 8d. to 2s. 6d. per day.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Town, &c.*—Lockerby, in the adjoining parish of Dryfesdale, is the nearest market-town, and is distant about a mile and a-half from the nearest part of the parish.

*Means of Communication.*—The locality of the parish does not require many roads. The principal one runs about two-thirds of its whole length. It is generally kept in very good repair, but the line of it is the worst that could have been chosen. Our forefathers seem always to have preferred carrying their roads over the tops of hills. Such is the road here. But a new one following the line of the Milk is projected, which, if made, will be the most picturesque and beautiful in the country.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—Considering the length of the parish, the situation of the church is perhaps as good and convenient as any that could be chosen. The church was built upwards of sixty years ago, and is at present in a very good state of repair. It was lately *stoothed* and seated of new, and is at present one of the neatest and most comfortable in the district. It is to be regretted that, when the heritors repaired the church, they did not at the same time repair the wall round the burying ground, which is at present in a very ruinous state. The church affords accommodation for the legal number of sitters and no more.

The manse was built, it is said, about a hundred years ago. Several additions were made to it during the life of the late incumbent; but every thing seems to have been done in a very injudicious and insufficient manner. It is at present in great need of repairs.

There are about eight acres of glebe land, including the garden and the ground on which the manse and offices stand. Of these nearly six acres are very good arable land; the remainder consists of pasture ground, and the precipices on the side of the Milk, which are covered with natural wood. The average value of the arable and pasture land may be about L. 2 per acre.

The stipend, according to the decret of the court, is only six chalders of victual, half meal and half barley, and L. 70 in

money, with L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements. But as the money stipend was converted into grain at the average fiars' price for seven years, and part of the heritors surrendered the teinds, it consists of about L. 56 in money, and somewhat more than fifty-six double bolls of victual, barley, and meal.

There are very few dissenters of any description in the parish, and these few do not originally belong to it, but have come from other parts of the country. The people in general seem attached to the Establishment. They have perhaps kept as close to it since the revolution, and have had as few grounds for being dissatisfied, as any other in the district. The church is in general very well attended. The number of communicants may be about 150 or upwards.

*Education.*—There is one established school in the parish, where the usual branches are taught. The salary is the maximum. There is also the interest of L. 100 for behoof of the free school of the parish. The interest of this sum is usually employed in paying for some of the poorer children. The parochial school-master is provided with the usual accommodations, as directed by law. The school fees are for reading and writing, 2s.; for arithmetic, 3s. 6d.; and for Latin, 5s.; and the amount actually received is about L. 20 per annum. The charges for other branches are regulated by those of the adjoining parishes.

The people can all read and write; they are in general very sensible of the benefits of education, and desirous of having their children instructed in the ordinary branches. The two extremities of the parish lie at rather too great a distance from the school. This is an evil that cannot easily be remedied, as the funds of the parish and population are not adequate to the support of two respectable established schools.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The poor are supported by the collections in the church, which may average about L. 13, the interest of L. 100, and a voluntary contribution by the heritors of 10s. on every 100 merks valuation. How the L. 100 was acquired is not very certain. Whether it has accumulated, or part of it was originally mortgaged, cannot be ascertained. The number of poor at present on the roll is 4. They receive 6s. 8d., 3s. 6d., and 3s. 4d. per month, according to circumstances. Besides these there is a fatuous person, for whom the parish pays L. 10 per annum. Occasional demands in addition to what is now stated are made upon the funds. There does not appear to be any growing disposition to apply for parish relief.

*Inns, &c.*—There is no house licensed to retail ale, or any kind of ardent spirits in this parish. There was one licensed for this purpose some years ago. But so many complaints were made against it, that measures were taken by those concerned to prevent a renewal of the license.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Since the last Statistical Account was written a great improvement, though not to the extent that might be wished, has taken place in the parish. The mode of husbandry has been altered and improved much since that time, and many of the farms have been better inclosed and subdivided with hedges and other fences; and where capital has been liberally applied, some of the farms, considering the nature of the soil, are in a high state of cultivation.

It is to be regretted that this parish is so bare of wood, as it would be much benefited by additional shelter. A good deal has been done in several places of late; but of these we can only particularize a few. There are, for example, some fine old trees on the estate of Whitstonehill, principally ash, which seems to be particularly well suited to the banks of the Milk. Some young plantations have lately been put down on the same estate, which are thriving well, but their extent is rather limited. Considerable plantations have also been made of late on the estate of Pierceby Hall, the property of G. Rogerson, Esq. There is also a considerable quantity of fine old timber and young wood on the estate of Gibsontown. The late proprietor, John Johnstone, Esq. expended a considerable sum of money, and with great taste and judgment, in improving and beautifying his property. It is now one of the most pleasant and desirable places of residence in the neighbourhood. The improvements, however, on the estate of Grange, the property of William Johnstone, Esq. are chiefly remarkable. About eighteen years ago, that gentleman planted extensively; and the plantations, which consist of timber of all sorts, are thriving uncommonly well. If the same spirit and taste had been displayed by all the other proprietors as by those above mentioned, Tundergarth, from the nature of its surface and localities, would have been one of the most beautiful parishes in the whole district.

*February 1834.*

# PARISH OF SAINT MUNGO.

PRESBYTERY OF LOCHMABEN, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.

THE REV. ANDREW JAMESON, M. W. S. MINISTER.

---

## L—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name and Boundaries.*—THE ancient name of this parish was Abermilk; the British designation *Aber*, signifying the confluence of waters, agrees with the situation of the parish, which is a kind of peninsula formed by the junction of the rivers Milk and Annan. The inquisitio of Earl David found, in the year 1116, that the lands of Abermilk belonged of old to the episcopate of Glasgow. The Bruces having built a castle on the Water of Milk in the twelfth century, the name of the parish was changed to that of Castlemilk. The parish under this new name is mentioned in the year 1170 by Pope Alexander; and in 1290, William de Gosford, the parson of Castlemilk, swore fealty at Berwick to King Edward I. The church of the parish was dedicated to God under the invocation of St Mungo, the canonized founder of the see of Glasgow; and most probably the people gave the name of their favourite patron to the parish, as being more in unison with their religious feelings than a designation which brought to their remembrance only the haughty baron or his feudal requisitions. Since the alteration of the religion of Scotland, the name of St Mungo has always designated the parish, except, perhaps, during that period of intolerance when the appellations *Saint* and *Devil* were esteemed synonymous terms.

The parish, situated in the upper ward of the ancient stewartry of Annandale, extends from north to south about 4 miles, and from east to west about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles, containing  $7\frac{1}{4}$  square miles; is bounded on the south by the parish of Dalton; on the east by Hoddam; on the north by Tundergarth; and by Dryfesdale on the west.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The surface of this parish is uneven, being elevated into two hill ridges, and depressed by their accompanying vales. On the south of the parish, the high wooded grounds of

Kirkwood in Dalton, and Nutholmhill in this parish, form a beautiful vale a mile long, through which the river Annan flows in a serpentine course. In the centre of this enchanting vale, and on the bank of the river Annan, the manse and church, embowered in wood, are situated. The manse stands 90 feet above the high watermark at Annan by the barometer. Nutholmhill, elevated 200 feet above the sea, sinks gradually into a plain eastward at the junction of the Annan and Milk, and westward near the village of Lockerby. Directly east, and nearly parallel with the ridge of Nutholmhill, rise the eminences named Barrhill and Breckenhill. Barrhill sinks into the level of the holms of Hoddam on the east; whilst Breckenhill, stretching westerly, sinks into the bed of the Milk on the confines of the parish of Tundergarth. This ridge extends about two miles, and is in its highest parts elevated 250 feet above the sea. Through the highly cultivated and richly wooded valley formed by these hills, the Water of Milk takes a serpentine course of three miles, on the bank of which is built the modern mansion of Castlemilk. In the north of the high land of Breckenhill, after a slight depression, the ground suddenly rising up again, forms the classical table-shaped hill of Burnswark in the parish of Hoddam.

*Meteorology.*—The climate is rather moist, from the parish being only six miles from the Solway Firth, and the quantity of high ground contained in and surrounding the parish. The most prevalent winds are from the south-west. Although the climate is mild from the sudden alternations of temperature to which the parish is exposed, inflammatory complaints are not uncommon; the very flimsy manufacture, which has supplanted the coarse fabric of our forefathers, gives rise to many glandular diseases, consumptions, and complaints of the liver and stomach. The great improvement which has taken place within these thirty years in the construction of houses, their comparative cleanliness and capability of ventilation, have greatly tended to diminish disease among the aged; whilst vaccination (now very generally adopted) has no less diminished death in early life. A somewhat singular atmospherical phenomenon passed over this parish some years since. A very smart shower of rain from the south-west, originating in the maritime parish of Caerlaverock, crossed this parish in the same direction, and spent itself on the confines of the parish of Tundergarth. The rain was salt water; and from the heat of a clear sun immediately after the shower, in a short time evaporation left slight incrustations of salt on grass and tree. A whirlwind over the Solway, then at high

water, had doubtless elevated the water which thus fell so far inland. An account of the phenomena was published in one of the earlier volumes of Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine.

*Hydrography.*—The River Annan takes its course through this parish in a south-eastern direction, separating it from the parishes of Dalton and Cummertrees for three miles. Many fine springs of water are found here, flowing generally from under secondary trap rock or sandstone, on which the trap rocks rest. The Saint's Well, close by the church, is a powerful spring flowing from the amygdaloid of Nutholmhill at a great depth; for its temperature ( $48^{\circ}$ ) is nearly the same in summer as in winter. The Water of Milk divides the parish nearly in the middle, running in a south-eastern direction for nearly three miles.

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—The geognostic appearance of this parish being of the most interesting nature, will apologize for the length of the following remarks. The valley of Annan or Annandale commences above the village of Moffat, in the tremendous hollow of Errickstane, and terminates near the manse of this parish,—a distance of fully twenty-three miles. Several lateral vales terminate in this vale. The lateral vale of the Milk terminates without it, a little way above the confluence of the Milk and the Annan on the north-east part of this parish. The sides of these vales are generally smooth and covered with vegetation. The bottom, though sometimes rocky, is generally covered with alluvial soil, forming the best land in the county. The valley of the Annan was probably at some former period a hollow in the transition rocks, in which a great river (vastly greater than that which now exists) flowed; but by the formation of the floetz or secondary trap rocks across its communication with the ocean, it appears to have been converted into a lake. The water of the lake, after the retiring of the ocean, appears to have worn a passage through the opposing rocks, and at length has passed from the state of a lake to that of a river. This river has gradually deepened its channel, and left its original outlet by the house of Dormont, and flows out by the deeper and more circuitous channel, through which it now reaches the sea. The great height of the original banks of the Annan, and the great distance at which they are situated, prove the former magnitude of the stream; whilst the banks and masses of water-borne gravel, forming the lands of Edge and Hardgrave in Dalton, and Newfield in Ruthwell parishes, declares the magnitude of the body of water from which they derived their origin.

In this as in Canoby parish, we have distinctly laid open the great connecting links of the various formations which compose the mineral history of this county. The transition rocks which compose the mountains of Moffat, and stretch southwards, inclose the vale of Annan; and, after being hid by the soil, are discovered again in the bed of the Annan at Williamwath ford, and near the Kettleholm bridge in the bed of the Milk. The transition rocks can be traced from Williamwath ford to the Almagil hills in Dalton parish; whilst the same rocks on the Milk, after being covered for some miles by soil and the secondary rocks, are again discovered forming the base of Burnswark in the parish of Hoddam. The transition rocks in this parish are greywacke, which occurs massive in the Annan; whilst in the bed of the Milk the greywacke alternates with greywacke-slate. This rock in its slaty form has not yet been found so thin and solid as to be applied to economical purposes.

The independent coal formation makes its appearance in the bed of the Annan, at the head of the St Mungo glebe. Slate-clay and sandstone are traced lying over the transition rocks. This junction is beautifully laid open by a small quarry on the glebe. At Dalton Hook, a quarter of a mile up the river Annan from this ford, there occurs a large mass of conglomerate limestone, which evidently belongs to this series of rocks. This limestone is composed of fragments of compact grayish-coloured limestone, quartz, and greywacke, cemented by a clayey basis. The sandstone of this formation is here white; and the same coloured sandstone occurs at Cone, in the parish of Kirkpatrick, and at Cowdens, in this parish, though in the latter situation its colour is rather grayish-white. This formation again appears at Rotchell to the south-east of the manse, continues from that point to the shores of the Solway Firth, and extends through the lower part of Annandale and Eskdale. At Whitehill, on the north border of this parish, the independent coal formation may be traced in beds of clay ironstone, slate-clay containing impressions of shells, and ash gray-coloured limestone, containing petrifications, principally mytilites.

*Secondary trap formation.*—In this parish, and, indeed, through the whole county, only individual rocks which compose this formation are found; but no where is the series complete. Nutholm hill is composed of porphyritic amygdaloid. This rock can be traced on both sides of the river Annan, to the little hill of Whinyrigg, where it terminates, and is succeeded by the coal formation.



To the west and south of Nutholm hill, the amygdaloid is traced to the bed of the Annan, at the head of the glebe, where it can be distinctly seen, lying on the white-coloured sandstone already mentioned, and the slate-clay of the coal formation; from this point it can be traced to the manse of Dalton, where the greywacke again appears forming the mountain-arm which stretches along the bottom of the vale of the Annan. On descending Nutholm hill towards the Milk, the amygdaloid can again be traced, extending to the bed of the Milk, lying over a very coarse sandstone, and clay ironstone, which are deposited immediately above the greywacke, a gunshot above the Kettleholm bridge. The amygdaloid here disappears, and is not met with again, till we reach Barhill, on the opposite bank of the Milk; there it lies over a sandstone similar to that observed on the banks of the Annan on the glebe, which sandstone rests on greywacke. From Barhill, the amygdaloid continues to stretch along the high ground to Burnswark, resting in many places on very coarse-grained conglomerate sandstone, which again rests on much inclined strata of small-grained greywacke.

The amygdaloid of Nutholm hill has its cavities filled with green earth, whereas much of the same rock forming Barhill has its cavities filled with calcedony.

In the year 1825, the plough turned up some pieces of rich galena, on a farm belonging to the estate of William Carruthers of Nutholm, Esq. and the tenant on making a search collected about  $\frac{1}{2}$  cwt. of beautiful ore. The ground where this valuable discovery was made, lies on the north bank of the Annan, and about fifty feet above the bed of the river; the soil in which it was deposited is loose gravel, over a till (ferruginous clay) subsoil, and this is laid over the sandstone which has been mentioned as lying immediately under the amygdaloid and resting on the transition rocks. From the probability that a vein of lead ore might be found, a professional examination of this spot was made by J. Wyatt, Esq. of Foolow, Derbyshire, and specimens of the ore submitted to the examination of Professor Jameson of Edinburgh. The result of this investigation was a resolution to form a joint-stock company, in small shares, in order to undertake a thorough examination of the land where the ore was found. Mr Wyatt procured a mining-tack for the projected company. The greater number of shares were subscribed for; and nothing was wanting but the acquiescence of the contiguous proprietors, to justify the company commencing their mining operations. The ground being surrounded by the property of no

less than six different landholders,—until all these gentlemen agreed to their terms, (in the event of a vein being found, and that vein stretching under any of their lands,) the company did not conceive it prudent to break ground. The greater number of these proprietors, however, refused to accede to the terms proposed; in consequence of which the whole mining scheme was abandoned. Had this project (in which the heritors were not required to advance one penny, unless they had chosen to become members of the mining concern,) been carried into execution, the result, if successful, would have been the improvement of the country, the enhancing of the value of their estates, and the opening up of a new source of industry to their nearly idle cottagers. Specimens of the ore were sent to the Royal Museum in the University of Edinburgh, and some retained by the incumbent in his possession. Whether this galena has been brought here by the primeval waters of the globe, or knocked from off the mouth of some vein in the immediate vicinity, no farther attempts have been made to discover. No search for many years has been made for coal; the shaft formerly sunk having been injudiciously executed, the proprietors were unwilling again to risk their money even on so valuable a field of investigation.\* Limestone was quarried for some time at Whitehill, on the north-east side of the parish, but has been abandoned for some years,—the rock sinking too deep under cover. But, just beyond the parish march on the west, conglomerate limestone is quarried and burnt for the private use of the tenants on the property of Daltonhook.

The only simple minerals found in this parish are common jasper. Of this, some fine compact specimens, fit for the lapidary, are found in the bed of the Milk; calcedony imbedded occurs in the amygdaloid of Barhill. Flint is found in the glebe, evidently brought there and manufactured into arrow-heads, or, as the country people call them, elf-shots. Hundreds of such flints were found on ploughing up the holm of the glebe. Syenite in rolled masses is found in the parish. It is a singular fact, that the nearest mountain composed of this mineral is that of Criffel, in Galloway; yet the rolled pieces of that primitive rock found in this parish and in the parishes nearer the base of Criffel, are small, but as you recede from that mountain the masses increase in size and quantity, and the bed of

\* One of the proprietors of this parish actually granted a lease to some miners of a lead mine on his estate, in a contiguous parish. The contractors spent some money, and then the miners, lead, and lease vanished altogether. They were drawn into this wild-goose chase by having mistaken some bog iron-ore for lead.

Wauchope Water, thirty miles distant from Criffel, is liberally strewed with rolled masses of syenite of very large dimensions.

The marl-pits in the parish are almost exhausted, as is nearly the case with the peat-mosses. The sandstone, for a circuit of twelve miles round this parish, is the new red. A patch of the grayish sandstone, already-mentioned, of some extent, in which this colouring matter is wanting, occurs at Cowdens, in the parish. It has been used, but is soft and easily acted upon by the atmosphere.

Alluvial soil, forming the vales of Annan and Milk, measures about 286 acres. The holm land of the Annan, lying on sandstone, is light and sandy: that forming the holms of Milk, lying on transition rocks, is a deep rich loam, constituting the most valuable land in the parish. The alluvial soils formed by both rivers measure about one and a-half foot deep, and are free from stones of all kinds. Towards the junction of the Annan and Milk, the bed of the Milk is much raised by the quantity of debris carried down by the winter floods: hence the alluvial soil deposited there is nearly a bed of gravel, of comparatively little value.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

The principal proprietor in this parish is Thomas Hart, Esq. of Castlemilk, a most active, liberal, and indefatigable improver.

*Parochial Registers.*—The session-register consists of four volumes. The date of the session minute-book is 1699. The money accounts are regularly kept from 1699 to 1784. No regular accounts were kept from that time till 1803, and from that period up to the present term a regular register of marriages, births, baptisms, and burials has been kept. The session minutes (except in as far as may tend to usefulness) are not engrossed in the sederunt-book.

*Antiquities.*—From a much defaced inscription on the foundation coins, (now in the incumbent's possession) the parish church appears to have been built under one of our Alexanders; but this cannot be clearly made out. A considerable part of the church seems to have been rebuilt from the remains of the original structure, as the present walls contain the remains of broken pillars, and door and window ribs. The church was in the form of a passion cross, having very narrow lancet-shaped windows. In 1754, the south wall (not the whole church, as stated in the former report,) was rebuilt, as appears from an inscription over the

old chancel-door; \* and, in 1805, to give room for celebrating the holy sacrament of the Lord's supper, the north transept was removed, and a new one built, and the whole structure repaired and modernized. The church, after these various mutilations, now presents a beautiful specimen of the Scots order of the *ecclesiastical barn architecture*. The ancient baptismal font is still preserved, and, on a late repair of the church, two grave-stones of great antiquity were discovered; these are preserved carefully. The church was covered with heather till 1754.

The funeral inscription of a family that rented the same farm for 300 years, is the only church-yard antiquity. The oldest headstone is dated 1616. A tumulus measuring twenty-four feet diameter, and three feet deep, principally made up of animal charcoal and earth, was lately removed from off the lands of Sorrysikemuir. In the middle of the mound, was a cell three feet by two, containing a handful of ashes; an urn some years ago was found outside this cell, also containing ashes. A coin of Mary Stuart was found in a British camp near this Roman chancel-house, and in another part of the parish a lad discovered an earthen pot containing about forty silver coins; the oldest was of Mary and Darnley. They were sold for old silver.—On the farm of Cowdens, in the north of the parish, and near the present Glasgow road, is shown the spot where stood the tent from which Ralph Erskine sounded the trumpet of defiance against the Established church. The descendants of this original seceding congregation finally settled in the village of Lockerby, where they are distinguished for the piety of their sentiments, and the purity of their lives.

\* It was during this repair of the church that the celebrated *gorgets* were removed from their fastenings at the chancel-door of the church. This word *gorget*, gentle reader, signifies an iron collar which opened with a hinge. It was placed round the neck of the penitent, and padlocked by the sexton. The miserable sinner, clothed in sackcloth, chained up by the neck to the chancel-door, stood in "durance vile" during the long hours of worship. The reader may shudder, or the profligate may laugh; but it was the severe discipline of the church, not more severe than a barbarous age required, coming in aid of our wholesome education of the young, and faithful teaching of the old, which, under Providence, has exalted Scotland so high as a moral and religious nation.

In the session records is an original bond, executed by a person, wherein he engages that there shall be no fighting or rioting at his daughter's wedding, which he can prevent, under the penalty of L. 2 Scots. The bond was demanded by the session, and is dated so late as 1707. There are many entries of fines, reprimanding, &c. for even allowing a shirt to remain drying on a hedge during the Sabbath. It was from such severity that the Scottish Sabbath solemnity, which is the admiration of the religious world, arose. It was the holy discipline of our church which counteracted the tendency of the book of sports to heathenize that sacred day in Scotland.

*Modern Buildings.*—Castlemilk is the only house worth noticing. It was built in the year 1796, is surrounded by natural and planted wood, and the ground and gardens are laid out with taste. The internal finishing of the house is excellent. \*

### III.—POPULATION.

In 1755, the population was	481
1763, - - -	600
1784, - - -	560
1792, - - -	640
1801, - - -	644
1811, - - -	724
1821, - - -	727
1831, - - -	791

The changes affecting the population in this parish are the union of small farms, † the pulling down of cottages by the lairds, the exhausted state of the peat-mosses, the high price of coals, and the general use of agricultural machinery.

1. Number of families in the parish,	- - - -	147
of families chiefly employed in agriculture,	- - - -	77
chiefly employed in trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	- - - -	30
2. The average number of births yearly, for the last 7 years,	- - - -	24
of deaths,	- - - -	24
of marriages,	- - - -	6

There is only one heritor in the parish, who has a rental of L. 600 per annum. Eleven proprietors possess each a rental of L. 50 and upwards.

*Character and Habits of the People.*—The people are industrious, frugal, and generally temperate. The virtue of cleanliness in their persons and houses is daily gaining ground. They enjoy a fair share of the comforts of life, and, not meddling with politics, they are quite contented with their condition. Their ordinary food is oatmeal, potatoes, and the produce of a small garden,

\* Castlemilk, originally built by the Bruces, came into the family of Stewart by the marriage of Walter High Steward of Scotland with one of King Robert's daughters. It fell by marriage into the family of Maxwells of Nithsdale, and was sold by that family. Whilst a fortified place, it was besieged by the Duke of Somerset, protector during the minority of Edward the Sixth. The Usurper during the commonwealth besieged this place; against his arms it stood out a considerable time. Having passed through so many proprietors since the original family took up their residence on their property near Glasgow, now named after this ancient place, the very ghost which used to disturb the slumbers of the Stewarts and Maxwells now slumbers in the burial aisle of the church.

† One tenant at present rents a single farm, which not many years since gave employment to six tenants and their families.

with bacon, and occasionally a piece of beef salted for the winter. There are frequent instances of unlawful intercourse among the sexes, which, I regret to say, they too often attempt to justify on principle. Poaching, save by one or two worthless characters, is nearly unknown in the parish; but poaching salmon in the river Annan is practised very generally, and by people of the most respectable character, fish not being considered by the people as property.

#### IV. INDUSTRY.

##### *Agriculture and Rural Economy.*—

Acres in cultivation,	-	-	4900
capable of cultivation,	-	-	200
incapable of cultivation,	-	-	200
under wood,	-	-	300

The rotation generally followed by the tenant is green crop or plain fallow, barley with grass seed, two years pasturage, and oats. In some instances, grass is only depastured one year, and two successive crops of oats taken; but this is now considered bad farming, except where the grass is depastured for at least two years. Leases are of fifteen years' duration. Some proprietors require caution for the first three years of their leases, and others one year's rent per advance, to lie in the proprietor's hand at 5 per cent. until the last year of the lease. This last system is now viewed as oppressive and injudicious. The farm-buildings are in general good. Draining is carried on to a considerable extent; and with it subdividing of farms and rearing of fences.

##### *Rate of Wages.*—

Mason work, per rood, of 36 square yards,	-	-	L. 1 7 0
Slatting, per yard,	-	-	0 0 4
Roofing, per square, of 100 square feet,	-	-	0 4 0
Plastering, per yard,	-	-	0 0 2½
Sawing wood, per 100 feet,	-	-	0 3 0
Flagging, including dressing the flags, per yard,	-	-	0 1 6
Diking, per rood of 19 feet,	-	-	0 1 3
Planting, per Scots statute acre,	-	-	1 12 0
Draining, per rood of 19 feet,	-	-	0 0 4
Road making, per rood of 22 feet,	-	-	0 9 0
Mowing hay, per Scots statute acre,	-	-	0 2 0
Mowing corn, ditto, according to the strength, weight, and situation of the crop, from 7s. to	-	-	0 9 0
Threshing corn, per Winchester bushel,	-	-	0 0 2½
Average price of country artisans' labour per day,	-	-	0 2 3
Average yearly wages of female servants living in the house, for last five years,	-	-	5 10 0
Ditto male servants,	-	-	10 0 0

Women's wages labouring in the field, per day, during summer,	L. 0 0 8
Men's ditto, ditto, - - -	0 1 2
Women's field labour during winter, - - -	0 0 7
Men's ditto, ditto, - - -	0 1 0

The quantity of thorns planted in diking, per rood 60 plants, and at 10s. per thousand. The undertaker is bound to uphold and to make up any deficiency in the ground planted during the three first years.

The number of farms in this parish under L. 50 per an. of rent, -	7
At L. 50, but under L. 100, per annum, - - -	16
At L. 100, but under L. 150, per annum, - - -	10
At L. 150, but under L. 200, per annum, - - -	2
At L. 200, but under L. 300, per annum, - - -	1
At L. 300, but under L. 400, per annum, - - -	1
	—37
Number of farms at date of last report, - - - -	59
Lost since that period by unions, - - - -	22

The great subdivision of land, and consequent want of capital, with deficiency of fuel, are the chief obstacles to the improvement of the parish. Should the search for coals in Hoddam parish prove successful, and as much of the land of this parish change hands, as has been the case within these few years, improvements will go on rapidly. It is by the rapid change of property, and the consequent introduction of capital, that the cultivation of the parish has gone on so progressively.

The average gross amount of raw produce yearly raised in the parish, as nearly as can be ascertained, is as follows :

Oats, 660 imperial acres, each at 30 Winchester bushels, at 2s. 6d. -	L. 2475
straw, at L. 2 per acre, - - -	1920
Wheat, 100 imperial acres, 24 Winchester bushels, at 6s. per bushel, -	720
straw, at L. 1, 10s. per acre, - - -	150
Barley, 140 imperial acres, each 24 Winchester bushels, at 3s. 6d. per bushel, -	588
straw, at L. 1, 10s. per acre, - - -	210
Potatoes, 140 Scots acres, at 10d. per cwt. and 18 cart loads to the acre, -	1134
Turnips, 70 Scots acres, at L. 3, 10s. per acre, - - -	245
Sown grass and hay, 260, at L. 2, 5s. per acre, - - -	585
Meadow hay, 80 acres, at L. 2 per acre, - - -	160
Flax, 6 acres, at L. 5 per acre, - - - -	30
Rape and plain fallow, - - - - -	-
Pasture, 200 cows, at L. 3, 10s. per cow, - - -	700
Young cattle of different ages, at L. 2 each, - - -	800
Sheep, 200, at 8s. yearly, per sheep, - - -	80

---

L 9197

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Means of Communication.*—The Glasgow and Manchester road passes three miles through the parish, and the old branch of that

road, measuring three and a-half miles, divides it nearly into two equal parts. On these lines of road, there are two bridges, in good repair, over the Water of Milk. The Glasgow and London mail, and occasionally a heavy coach, run daily along this road.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church, at the utmost extremity of the parish, is situated most inconveniently for the people; it is sufficiently large, and in tolerable repair.\* The sittings are 300. The manse and offices were built in the year 1785, for the sum of L. 374. These have been repaired four times at the expense of L. 457. Half of this sum laid out at once would have built a better manse, and saved the heritors a great deal of money. The last repair of the manse, executed only three years since, has made it as comfortable a house as could be wished. The glebe, measuring thirty-five acres Scotch, is valued at L. 40 rent. The whole teind is surrendered, amounting to L. 174, 16s. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. The church is tolerably well attended. Its great distance from two-thirds of the people affords an indifferent plea for non-attendance to the nominal Christian, and a good one to the old and infirm. The average number of communicants is 140. There is no dissenting place of worship. The individuals dissenting are, of Roman Catholics 4; Episcopalians 4; Seceders 30.

*Education.*—One parish school established in the year 1704, and an occasional private one during the winter months, are the only public seminaries of education. The school-house is situated in the very centre of the parish, as conveniently as the church is the very reverse. The branches of education taught, besides the ordinary, are Latin, Greek, and French languages. The salary is the maximum. The present master is burdened with a retired

\* It may be proper to state, that tradition has preserved the reason why the church of this parish is so inconveniently situated. The people having resolved many centuries since to build a church under the invocation of the far-famed St Kentigernus, commenced their labours on the acclivity of Nutholm hill. This spot, it seems, did not please the saint; for what the people built of the church during the day, the saint pulled down during the night. After much consideration, it was resolved to untie the horse of a widow, celebrated for her sanctity and devotion to our celestial patron, and wherever this animal should finally settle, the spot was to be considered as fixed by the saint, on which his fane should be erected. The animal settled on the rich pastures of the Annan; the people were satisfied that their heavenly friend having now fixed his sanctuary on this place, their work suffered no further interruption. During the measuring off of the church-yard, the spirit of the river (kelpie) perceiving too penurious a disposition prevailing, ordered the boundaries to be enlarged, for in one day it would be filled by the bodies of the slain. He also was obeyed, and the last incumbent having got one rood inclosed for the burial ground, very snugly added an acre and a-half of the best land in the parish to his glebe.



salary to the former teacher of L. 20 yearly. The master has the legal accommodations. His system of teaching is an approach to the national school system. The probable yearly amount of fees due to the teacher is about L. 40. Not one native but can read his Bible. Prior to the establishment of the parish school the case was different; now boys and girls at twelve years of age can both read and write. There may, however, be an individual of great age who cannot write; because in his day there was no school near him. Every year the people are becoming more sensible of the blessing of a parish school, and there is the most decided evidence of improvement arising from the liberal education now so generally imparted to the poorest child in the parish. The school is opened and closed with prayer. The whole Bible is in daily use; the shorter catechism of this church is regularly taught. Mrs Hart of Castlemilk, has this year established a school library. It contains upwards of 200 volumes, which appear to be judiciously selected.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—Occasional aid was by the session given to twelve persons annually; but, except in one or two cases of extreme age or hopeless disease, no individual has ever had adjudged to him a regular aliment, and when such is given, the pauper is allowed from 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. per week. The fund for support of the poor has arisen wholly from church collections, church dues, and interest of money saved from these sources by the session; during the incumbency of the present minister, the yearly amount of church collections and church dues is L. 22; this includes the extra collections made at the celebration of the holy sacrament, which is administered twice a-year. The session have been in the habit of making up yearly a list of such individuals or families as require aid, especially during the winter season: the minister then intimates their situation publicly in the church, and informs the people, that certain individuals, at the expense of the session, will pass through the parish to receive contributions in money, meal, potatoes, &c. for these their distressed brethren. The means of support collected under the direction of the session are applied to the support of the distressed. The session have also been in the habit of at times giving work to poor women in place of money, paying a house rent on condition their relatives shall in all other respects provide for them; or maintaining a poor person's family at school, to prevent their becoming a burden on the parish. But, unless driven to it by necessity, direct payment of money from

the sessional funds, except to the diseased and aged, has always been avoided. The trustees on the parish roads, by an agreement with the session, have engaged to repair the parish roads only during the winter and early spring months; and to employ only such individuals to labour on the roads as, but for this work, would require aid from the session; also, to apply the conversion money in the payment of horse and cart labour on the roads. The heritors and farmers also agree to furnish horse and cart labour for the public use under certain regulations, and free of all expense, to the trustees. The labourers employed on these roads are paid 2d. per day below the ordinary rate of wages, to make the scanty fund last longer, and to prevent all who can get work elsewhere and better wages, from burdening the fund. Poor women are also by the trustees employed in gathering stones and filling carts on the roads, at a fixed rate. In order to give efficacy to this parochial machinery, the minister was empowered by the whole of the heritors many years since, to object to any individual or family acquiring a residence in the parish whom he might judge likely to become a burden upon it; and, in case any heritor should refuse to remove the individual or families, against whose residence in the parish the minister objected, the heritor so refusing was bound by a solemn deed, jointly executed by the whole heritors, to free the session and other heritors of all expense, in the event of such a person ever at any future time requiring to be supported. Acting under these few and simple regulations, this session during the incumbency of the present minister has not only comfortably supported the poor without any aid from the heritors, but laid up a sum, which, under judicious management, will render any assessment for the poor unnecessary. The poor, it is to be regretted, are not now so shy in asking sessional aid as they used to be.

*Alehouses.*—There is but one public-house in the parish; and though kept with as great regularity as possible, still it is a source of much evil.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The annual rent of this parish by a valuation made under the authority of the late Lord Minto in the year 1746, was L. 373, 1s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; in the year 1794, when the last report was drawn up, it amounted to L. 1800; and now it is estimated at L. 4000. The population at last report was 640, and then there were 8 paupers and 22 dissenters; now the population is 791, and there are 12

paupers and 38 dissenters. The last report stated, that rents were from L. 20 to L. 80 per annum, now they are from L. 50 to L. 390. At the time of last report the want of a bridge over the Milk to open a communication with the Solway Firth was complained of; the parish roads were also said to be bad; and coal was 20 miles distant. Now there is a bridge over the Milk, the parish roads are excellent, and English coal at Annan (only 8 miles distant) are abundant. At the time of the last report, there were only nine houses slated; the greater number were built of mud and stones: only three houses had a parlour and carpet: and hardly an eight-day clock or silver spoon was seen in the parish. Now there are only a few old cottages unslated: all the houses built of stone and lime: ten houses have carpets on the sitting-room: hardly even a cottage wants an eight-day clock: and every tenant and many cottagers have silver tea-spoons. At last report, the church was a ruin, without bell, pews, Bibles, or utensils for administering the sacraments, and the minister officiated occasionally in a shepherd's plaid; there was no school-house, master, or provision for one; *now* everything necessary is provided for the church; there is an endowed school, and well-educated schoolmaster; and the minister is attired in that popish *rag*, a gown. Formerly the Seceders would not be present when any Established minister was celebrating any divine ordinance, and the Episcopal clergy, in terror of the people, performed the rites of burial in private; the present incumbent has been sent for, to attend on the sick and dying Seceders, and the funeral rites of the Episcopal church are performed openly in our churches and burial grounds.

*February 1834.*

# PARISH OF RUTHWELL.

PRESBYTERY OF ANNAN, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.

THE REV. HENRY DUNCAN, D. D. MINISTER.

## L.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name, Boundaries, &c.*—"The parish of Ruthwell," says Chalmers,\* "derived its name from the Anglo-Saxon *Rith*, a rivulet, and *Weald*, a woody place, as we learn from Somner. The Kirkton,† which was a baronial burgh, stands on a rivulet which falls into the Solway Frith about a mile below. The remains of the ancient woods, whence a part of the name is derived, still exist. In vulgar speech, and even in the chartularies, the name of Rithwald, or Ruthwell, has been abbreviated into *Ryval* or *Rival*."

Other derivations of the name have been conjectured; but whatever may be thought of the etymology of the first syllable, that of the second seems to be confirmed by the nearly corresponding terminations of the adjoining parishes of Mousewald, Torthorwald, and Tinwald, all extending along the morass of Lochar,—a morass which runs into each of these parishes as well as into Ruthwell, and which the numerous remains of imbedded trees amply prove to have been at some distant period a continuous forest.

The parish is bounded on the south by the Solway Frith, and by the river Lochar, which stream divides it from Caerlaverock both in this direction and on the west; on the north-west by Mousewald; on the north by Dalton; and on the east by Cummertrees. It is about five miles and a-half long, by two miles and a-half broad, containing somewhat less than fourteen square miles.

*Topographical Appearances, &c.*—In its surface the parish is

\* Caledonia, Vol. iii. p. 191.

† There is, properly speaking, no *Kirkton*. The village in question stands half a mile nearer the Solway than the church, but the rivulet passes them both. Chalmers speaks erroneously of the woods as "still existing along the bank of the rivulet." They are, in fact, a mile distant from it; but they may have been at one time contiguous.

generally flat and uninteresting, the elevations that occur not rising in any instance more than 80 or 90 feet above the level of the sea. The sea-beach is low, and consists of a clayey sand, known in this quarter by the provincial name of *sleetch*. This substance extends for several miles into the Frith, with so slight a declination, that the tide at low water recedes entirely out of sight, and leaves to the eye a barren and cheerless waste.

The climate, on account of its vicinity to the sea and to the Lochar Moss, may be considered as somewhat moist; but certainly it is not unhealthy. There are no prevailing distempers peculiar to the parish. Many of the inhabitants live to an advanced age: and not long ago an old soldier died at the age of 103, if calculated from the statement contained in the certificate of his discharge, or of 110, if we rely on his own constant averment as to the date of his birth. Of the winds, the south-west is the most violent and the most pernicious to vegetation, as is distinctly indicated by the inclination of the trees.

*Springs.*—There is a mineral spring at Brow, near the shore, where the Lochar falls into the Solway Frith. It is chalybeate, and of no great strength; but was formerly a well of some celebrity, and, notwithstanding the miserable accommodation for lodgers, of some resort. Here, is a stone table, at which it is said that Lord Stormont, the father of the celebrated Earl of Mansfield, sat with his son and drank to his health when he took leave of that future ornament of his country, on quitting his native land to push his fortune at the English Bar. On that occasion, the old nobleman is reported to have jocularly told his son, that he did not wish to see his face in Scotland again till it should be surrounded with the chief justice's wig,—a jest to which the event has given almost a prophetic character. Here also is the humble cottage in which the ill-fated poet Burns spent some of the latest days of his life, in the vain hope of restoring a broken constitution, by imbibing the salutary water, and breathing the pure sea air.

*Geology.*—The geological and mineral condition of the parish is marked by no peculiarity worthy of extended notice. The principal rock is a coarse limestone, which about forty or fifty years ago was worked to a considerable extent, but which has of late been entirely disused, having been justly superseded by the far purer lime of Kelhead, lying within four miles.

About the period above-mentioned, some attempt was made to discover a workable vein of coal on the farm of Belridding, in the

parish, but without success, although strong indications appeared of the presence of that useful mineral, at least to a small extent. The existence of such large coal-fields on the opposite coast of Cumberland, where geological indications are in many respects similar, has induced a very sanguine belief that a spirited search would in all probability not be made in vain.

*Soil.*—The soil is various, consisting, however, generally of a strong gravel, intermixed with vegetable mould. Towards the west, on the low ground near the sea, and on the banks of the Lochar, a sluggish stream, there is a considerable tract of clayey soil, mingled with sand, which has in remote ages obviously been under the action of the sea, being originally of the same quality with the *sleetch* at present washed by the tide. On soil of this nature, the extensive morass of the Lochar Moss, already-mentioned, is known generally to rest. In one place, shell marl is to be found, and attempts have been made to convert it to purposes of agriculture, but the expense of obtaining it has been thought to exceed its profit.

*Zoology.*—Of the zoology of the parish little can be said that is not contained in the former Statistical Account. It is there stated with truth, that the woodlark and bullfinch, as well as the other common birds of the district, are to be found in the woods of Comlongon. To this we shall only add, that various kinds of pheasants have within a very few years been introduced to these woods, where they were increasing rapidly so long as they were protected, but during the last year their numbers have been greatly diminished by poachers.

The fish on this coast are salmon, which are caught in small quantities at the confluence of the Lochar with the sea, by means of stake-nets; flounders of a large size and good quality, of which there is an abundant supply; and occasionally herrings, as well as a few cod and skate.

The ordinary kinds of game, such as hares and partridges, are plentiful. Some grouse are to be met with on Lochar Moss; and woodcock and black-cock are in their season by no means uncommon; nor is the fox a stranger to Comlongon woods.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Land-owners.*—The principal land-owner is the Earl of Mansfield, who derives his origin from the Murrays of Cockpool, an ancient family, the chief of which was in the reign of James IV.





RUNIC MONUMENT IN THE GARDEN BELONGING TO RUTHEWELL MANE



created Earl of Annandale. This latter branch, however, became extinct, along with the title, in the second generation, when Viscount Stormont, the direct ancestor of the present proprietor, succeeded to the estate in this parish as heir of line. Lord-Justice Mansfield was a younger son of this family; but by his talents and virtues justly earned for himself an earldom along with a large fortune, both of which descended to his nephew, the present earl's father.

*Antiquities—Runic Monument.*—The most remarkable antiquity in the parish is a Runic monument, which stands in the garden belonging to the manse of Ruthwell. This curious relic of former times is accurately represented in the accompanying engraving, which is taken from a drawing made by the writer of this article. It consists of a column inscribed partly with Runic, and partly with Roman characters, which is believed to be almost the only unequivocal vestige of Anglo-Saxon sculpture in Britain.\* It has been noticed by various authors, such as Hickes, Gordon, Pennant, and Chalmers; but all of them have given inaccurate and deficient descriptions of it, and the plates which have been engraved to represent it, are very defective.

Chalmers, without assigning any reason for the conjecture, supposes the pillar to have been probably erected by some of the followers of Halfden, the Dane, a chief who made predatory incursions into Scotland in the years 875 and 876. It appears, however, from the form of the characters that the Runes on this monument are not Danish, but Anglo-Saxon,—a discovery which seems first to have been made by Wilhelm Carl Grimm, a learned German grammarian, and which necessarily overturns every theory of its Danish origin, and establishes that its date must be sought for during the period of the Heptarchy, or at least before the language or the learning of the Anglo-Saxons had, by foreign conquest and admixture, undergone any violent change.

Of the early history of the column, however, little or nothing is known, but what may be gathered from internal evidence. On inspection, the first thing that strikes an inquirer is the remarkable fact already mentioned, of the union on the same stone of two different alphabets, the Runic and the Roman; and this naturally suggests the question, whether or not any essential change may have

\* Gordon in his *Itinerarium*, calls it a Danish monument, and says, he has heard of another such pillar in Scotland, but he does not say where it is situated; and Chalmers speaks of this as the only genuine one.

taken place in the form and character of the monument since its first erection ; but such an investigation can only be superficially made in a work of this kind.\*

On referring to the plate, it will be seen that the pillar has four faces, two of which contain on the margins Runic ; and the other two, Roman characters ; and that on the sides inscribed with the latter, there are Christian figures and emblems, of which the Runic sides are destitute. This singular combination must strike the antiquarian as affording a *prima facie* evidence that the sculpture has been executed at two different periods. But there are other circumstances which, combined with this, will leave little doubt on the mind of an unprejudiced inquirer, as to the remodelling of the monument at a period subsequent to its first erection. These circumstances are, *1st*, That the monument consists of two separate blocks of sandstone, and that the upper stone containing the cross is of a redder hue than the lower stone, and has evidently been taken from another quarry, which could scarcely have happened, had both been formed at the same time. *2d*, That there is a bar or border at the top of the lower stone, running horizontally round all the four sides, and containing inscriptions, which divides the vine work on the Runic sides into two compartments, and awkwardly interrupts its elegant convolutions,—an intrusion which can only be satisfactorily accounted for on the supposition that, when first erected, the pillar was at this point to terminate. *3d*, That the sculpture on the Runic sides, both in elegance of design and skill of execution, greatly exceeds that on the Roman sides, and indicates a higher state of the art. From all these circumstances, there appears to be satisfactory evidence that the pillar has, since its first erection, undergone a great change ; that it consisted at first only of one block, terminating with the bar already mentioned, the upper stone containing the cross, having been added at a later period ; and further, that, making allowance for the waste of time and violence, the sculpture on the Runic sides is in its original form, but that the Christian figures, along with the Latin inscriptions on the Roman sides, were probably cut at the time of its change of shape, having perhaps originally contained carved work of a different kind.

The writer was at first inclined to think that the original design

\* The antiquarian reader who wishes for further information than is here given, is referred to the Transactions of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland for the year 1852, where he will find an article, of which the present is an abridgement, drawn up by the writer of this account.

of the column might not have been of a religious nature, and might even have preceded the establishment of Christianity in this part of the country; and also, that the Runic inscription, which has hitherto baffled all attempts of the learned to interpret it, had probably been mutilated, and rendered illegible by narrowing the sides of the column in the process of alteration. But the very ingenious and apparently successful efforts of Mr Repp,\* which are afterwards noticed, and which reflect so much credit on his learning and antiquarian talent, lead to an opposite conclusion in both these respects.

The later history of this remarkable column is not much more indebted to tradition than that of a more early date. In the former Statistical Account of this parish, mention is made of a report which still prevails, of its having been set up in remote times at a place called Priestwoodside, (now Priestside,) near the sea, from whence it is said to have been drawn by a team of oxen. Whatever truth there may be in this, it is at least certain, that at a very early period it was erected in the church of Ruthwell, where it remained, and was held in the highest veneration, till the Reformation; and where, even after that period, it was preserved from demolition till the middle of the seventeenth century, probably by the influence of the Murrays of Cockpool, the ancestors of the Earl of Mansfield, who had espoused the cause of the Stuarts and of the Episcopal party, in opposition to that of the Presbyterian. In 1642, however, when the latter were triumphant over the court and its satellites, by whom they had been at once cajoled and oppressed; and when the progress of the dispute between Charles I. and the country party, which was rapidly coming to a crisis in both kingdoms, had greatly inflamed men's minds,—an order was passed by the General Assembly of the church † for the destruction of this ancient monument, as idolatrous. This order must have been but partially and reluctantly obeyed by the local authorities. The column was, indeed, thrown down and broken in several places, probably by its fall, and some of the emblems, which were peculiarly obnoxious, because objects of *Popish* idolatry, such as the crucifixion, were at the same time perhaps nearly obliterated; but, after this act of obedience was performed, it was al-

\* Mr Thorleif Gudmandson Repp, A. M., F. S. A., Scotland, a Danish gentleman, and one of the librarians of the Advocates' Library.

† This order is dated 27th July 1642, at St Andrews, where the General Assembly was then sitting.

lowed to lie on the spot, where it fell, and probably served for more than a century as seats to part of the congregation, who weekly assembled to worship God under more simple forms, and with a purer faith, than those which had rendered it an object of adoration. In 1772, when inspected by Mr Pennant, it was still lying within the church; but soon after this, it was removed to the churchyard,—the increasing population, and the improved taste of the times, having rendered necessary better accommodation to the worshippers. In its new situation, it became more exposed to injury, and when the present incumbent acquired the living, he found it undergoing such rapid demolition, that he resolved to preserve it by transferring it to a place of greater security. This resolution was carried into effect in the summer of 1802, when it was erected in a garden which he had begun to form in the immediate neighbourhood of the church-yard.

Previous to this, however, a discovery had been somewhat singularly made of a part of the column which was amissing, both when visited by Gordon and by Pennant. A poor man and his wife having died within a day or two of each other, it was resolved that they should both be buried in the same grave, which, on that account, required to be made unusually deep. The grave-digger, in the course of his labour, came to a fragment of sandstone of considerable bulk, which was found, on one of its sides, to contain the upper part of the image of the Supreme Being, with the *Agnus Dei* in his bosom; and on the reverse, a representation of the upper part of two human figures in the act of embracing. On comparing this fragment with the monument, it was discovered to coincide with that portion of it which Pennant mistook for the top of a cross, the limbs and flowing robes of the image of the Deity being that which he describes as “the lower part of a human figure in long vestments, with his feet on a pair of small globes.” It had probably been surreptitiously buried along with the body of some Popish votary, from an idolatrous belief in its supernatural virtues.

The only large fragment of the column which seems to be irretrievably lost, is what contained the transverse arms of the cross, which may probably have been much shattered by the fall, when the whole was thrown down, or entirely destroyed by the zeal of the agents of the General Assembly. It was, however, quite evident at what part these arms must have originally projected; and the writer of this article flattered himself that he could restore them in nearly their former shape, which, in the year 1823, by the aid

of a country mason, he attempted to do. In this he was guided by the form of the capital, which is nearly entire, and which, besides, being in all probability a counterpart of the arms, contains on two opposite sides segments of a circle corresponding with similar segments in the stone immediately below,—evidently indicating that the circle was originally completed, and formed the centre of the cross.

The engraving precludes the necessity of a detailed account of the sculpture, but it may be proper to take some notice of its principal features, as well as to give an explanation of the inscriptions as far as they are intelligible.

By referring to the plate it will be observed, that the two faces of the column which contain Runic characters are in many respects very similar to each other. Not only do we find on either side a vine winding up the centre in graceful serpentine undulations, with branches enriched with fruit, starting from it at every turn, in regular and flowing curves, and animals of different kinds curiously and artfully sculptured, in the act of feeding; but what is particularly worthy of remark, because evidently done with some design, the animals on the two sides, though in different attitudes, are of similar kinds, and succeed each other in the same order. First, there is an imaginary animal with the head, body, and wings of a bird, and a long flexible tail like that of a quadruped; then comes a four-footed animal, next a pair of birds, and above these two reptiles, of the lizard species, the latter devouring the stem, while all the rest are feeding on the grapes.

With regard to the Runic inscriptions, a new light, as has already been noticed, has been thrown on the subject, by the learned and ingenious Mr Repp, who has published a Latin letter on the subject in the Transactions of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, to which the reader is referred. A very brief outline of that paper must at present suffice.

It appears that only one specimen of Anglo-Saxon Runes has hitherto been generally admitted as authentic. This is the Exeter manuscript, noticed by the learned Hickes in his Thesaurus. Mr Repp has discovered that in the Runic inscription, on the Ruthwell monument, an alphabet is used, differing only in a few minute particulars from that of the Exeter manuscript,—but widely different from the Norse or Islandic Runes employed by the Danes. He has been enabled, by employing this Anglo-Saxon alphabet, to translate parts of sentences, and several detached words, such

as *Cristpason mith seretum, xi. punda male, i. e.* the vessel of Christ [or baptismal font] of eleven pounds weight, with ornaments. *Radih pedra Therfusa aqrran, i. e.* by authority of the Therfusian Fathers, for the devastation of the fields. *Kua xiii. i. e.* 13 cows. *Ashlafardhal, i. e.* the vale of Ashlafr. *Menboat*, the expiation for an injury.

In confirmation of the interpretation of that part of the inscription rendered by Mr Repp "the vessel of Christ, &c." it may be proper to observe, that there is preserved along with the column an ornamented circular stone, which, according to a probable tradition, was originally used as the pedestal of a baptismal font, or font for holy water. The writer's conjecture is, that this vessel stood before the pillar on the circular stone; and this is the more probable, from the well known fact, that in Roman Catholic countries, a similar arrangement is in the present day exceedingly common.

The Roman side contains inscriptions in Latin, chiefly taken from the vulgate version of the New Testament, and all of them bearing reference to the figures on the compartments which they surround. Turning to the face of the column represented on the right hand of the plate, we find in the lowest compartment a very mutilated representation of the crucifixion, with the margin which contained the inscription, entirely destroyed. Immediately above this, are the figures of the Angel Gabriel and the Virgin Mary. Of the legend, nothing remains but two complete words, and a few imperfect letters; yet these seem sufficient to enable us to ascertain the whole which appears to have been a quotation from the vulgate translation of Luke, 1st Chapter, 28th verse. It runs thus,\* "ET INGRESSVS ANGELVIS ad eam dixit, ave, gratia plena! Dominus TECUM: Benedicta tu in mulieribus."

In the next compartment, Christ is represented in the act of curing a blind man. The legend appears to have been partly taken from the vulgate of John, 9th Chapter, 1st verse, and to have stood as follows: "ET PRAETERIENS VIDIT hominem caecum a NATIBITATE (nativitate) ET Sanavit ab INFIRMITATE. The mistake of substituting a B for a v in "nativitate," may perhaps suggest some conjectures as to the language, or at least the dialect spoken when the sculpture was made.

The next representation is that of the woman wiping the feet of Jesus with her hair. The inscription is from the vulgate of Luke, 9th Chapter, 37 and 38 verses, ATTVLIT ALABASTRVM VNGVENTI ET

\* In this and the other inscriptions, the legible letters are printed in Roman capitals.

STANS RETRO SECVS PEDES EIVS LACRIMIS COEPIT RIGARE PEDES  
EIVS ET CAPILLIS CAPITIS SVI TERGEBAT.

The rest of the inscriptions on this side are altogether illegible, and the sculpture does not seem to require any particular explanation. The figure with the bow and arrow may, however, be adverted to as particularly remarkable.

Commencing now at the bottom of the other Saxon face, we find both the sculpture and inscription of the first compartment entirely destroyed. The next contains a figure, supposed to be that of the Virgin riding on an ass, and carrying the infant Jesus in her arms, with a shapeless mass in the upper corner on the left, which may have been the representation of an angel or of Joseph. An inscription of which the commencement (MARIA ET IO) only remains, gives credibility to the conjecture that the figures were intended to represent the flight of the holy family into Egypt.

Next come the figures breaking a loaf of bread with the inscription SES PAVLVS ET A† \* \* \* \* \* FREGERUNT PANEM IN DESERTO. It is not easy to conjecture to what scriptural or traditional event this refers. The allusion in the next compartment, however, is sufficiently evident. It contains a figure of our Saviour trampling on the heads of two swine, with the Greek letters IHZXPZ on the transverse border, while on the right hand margin we find IVDEX AEQVITATIS SERTO SALVATOREM MVNDI and on the left, BESTIAE ET DRACONES COGNOVERVNT INDE. If "serto" be a misspelling for *certo*, as is probable, the translation will be "Jesus Christ the Judge of Righteousness. Him assuredly to be the Saviour of the world, beasts and dragons knew from thence," alluding to the miracle of the devils (*dracones*) sent into the herd of swine (*bestiæ*.)

Immediately above this on the upper stone, is the image of the *Father*, with the *Agnus Dei* in his bosom, and his feet on two globes, indicating probably his power over the world which now is and that which is to come. The only letters of the legend which can be deciphered, are DORAMVS, doubtless *adoramus*. The inscription round the eagle at the top of the cross is altogether effaced.

Besides the Runic monument, of which so lengthened a description has now been given, there are in the same garden, two

† Pennant read "*et an*," and conjectured it to have been originally *angelorum*, erroneously supposing it to have been a continuation of the inscription on the same side immediately above it.

sculptured stones about the size and shape of common grave-stones, but without any inscriptions, each containing the figure of an ornamented cross, rising in the centre on a pedestal, and on the right side a sword of ancient form; while on the left side, there appears on the one the coulter and sock of a plough, and on the other a bugle-horn attached to a baldrick or belt, by a ring. The figures are very rudely carved.

These remains are said to have been originally placed in a church-yard of a small chapel or preceptory, belonging to the Knights of St John, which we are informed by ancient records was erected at a place still called from that circumstance the Kirkstile, about a mile distant from the parish church, though no traces of it are now to be found. These memorials of the dead were found by the present incumbent lying in the parish burying-ground, whence he removed them, and they now form part of the wall of a summer-house attached to the fruit-wall, which separates the garden from the church-yard.

In the wall of the above-mentioned summer-house are also inserted some very remarkable specimens of a phenomenon which has excited considerable interest and speculation among geologists,—that of distinct tracks of animals of various sizes in sandstone. These specimens are three in number; and one of them, where the foot-marks are particularly distinct, has been pronounced by Dr Buckland to be the track of a large tortoise. They were taken from the quarry of Corncockle Muir, in the parish of Lochmaben, where many other appearances of a similar kind have been discovered in the act of quarrying; some of them so deep below the surface of the quarry as forty-five feet. Most of these have unfortunately been destroyed by the workmen, who were altogether ignorant of their geological importance.\*

Before leaving the head of antiquities, it may be proper to mention the ancient residences of the predecessors of the Earl of Mansfield; and this we shall do in the words of the late John Murray, Esq. of Murraythwaite, himself a cadet of that old family, who drew up the report of this parish for Sir John Sinclair: "The only ancient building in the parish is the castle of Comlongon, the seat of the Viscount of Stormont, † which, although erected some centuries ago, is still entire. It was a considerable place of

\* See account of these impressions, by the writer of the present article, in the Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh for 1828.

† Now Earl of Mansfield.



strength before the union of the crowns ; is 60 feet square, and 90 feet high, with battlements and port-holes in the walls. The walls are of sufficient thickness to admit of small apartments within them, and the hall and larger rooms are still occupied, as the roof is standing.\* The castle of Comlongon was for many ages the residence of the Murrays of Cockpool,—a family of great eminence in Annandale, as some of them were wardens of the western border ; and Cuthbert Murray of Cockpool was one of the commanders of the Scottish army that defeated the Duke of Albany and the Earl of Douglas when they invaded Scotland. The remains of an old castle are also to be seen at Cockpool, within half a mile of Comlongon, which was likewise a seat of the family.”

*Parochial Registers.*—In the parish register of births, the first entry was made in the year 1723. This public document does not appear to have been very regularly kept at any time, and the irregularity was increased at one period by the very impolitic tax which was imposed on the registration, and at another, by the irritation among the lower orders consequent on the extension of the militia service to Scotland,—the register having become unpopular by being employed for the purpose of ascertaining the ages of the young men subject to the ballot. The yearly average of the births may be 23 or 24, though the parish register does not exhibit so high an average, it being necessary to make some allowance for the negligence of parents in obtaining registration for their children. 26 births were registered in 1829, and 21 in 1830. No accurate account can be given of deaths and marriages, from the want of parish registers of these events.

### III.—POPULATION.

By return to Dr Webster in the year 1755, the population was	599
By the census of 1801,	996
1811,	1184
1821,	1285
1831,	1216

No cause of a local nature can be assigned for the increase up to 1821 ; and it must be attributed almost solely to the general improvement of agriculture, which has so materially added to the amount of the common necessaries of life, and at the same time improved their quality. It is true, indeed, that, since Dr Webster's

\* The inside of the castle is now quite ruinous.

census, a small village has arisen, which took its origin in an attempt to work the lime quarry already alluded to, but, at the highest calculation, this has not added more than 100 to the number of the inhabitants.

The following returns are copied from a census of the parish taken by the present incumbent in the years 1824-5, since which period the population has been nearly stationary. It shows a population somewhat under that of the Government census; but as it was taken with great care, and each family was separately enrolled, the writer is inclined to rely on its correctness. A common source of error in the returns to Government arises from the circumstance, that the inhabitants frequently state to the schoolmaster the whole number of children belonging to their respective families, whether residing in the parish at the time or not,—a mistake which must swell the amount, by causing many individuals to be counted more than once. The difference in the present instance probably arises from that source. The minister's census only includes the number actually residing in the parish at the time it was taken.

Number of the population residing in towns,	-	none.		
in villages,	-	280		
in the country,	-	867		
		<hr/>		1147
			Males.	Females.
Number of offspring under 10 years of age,	-	131	135	
Ditto of servants ditto,	-	2	2	
Ditto of other inmates, ditto,	-	14	12	
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
In all under 10,	-	147	149	
Number of population above 10 years, viz.				
Heads of families,	-	163	211	
Offspring,	-	144	176	
Servants,	-	50	44	
Other inmates,	-	25	35	
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Add under 10 as above,	-	147	149	
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		529	618	
Making the whole population in 1824-5,	-		1147	

Of the heads of families, there were 143 married couples, 41 widows, 11 widowers, 9 bachelors, and 27 spinsters, being in all 231 families, which latter number differs only by one from the statement in the census of 1831.

The same private census exhibits the trades and occupations of the inhabitants as follow :

Proprietors of land, - - -	1	Weavers, - - - -	11
Minister, - - - -	1	Tailors, - - - -	4
Preacher, - - - -	1	Shopkeepers, - - -	2
Tutor in a family, - - -	1	Miller, - - - -	1
Schoolmasters, - - - -	3	Hinds, or farm-servants, who live with their families, - - -	9
Farmers, - - - -	44	Gardeners, - - - -	2
Labourers, - - - -	58	Cottagers, being day-labourers, &c.	66
Smiths, - - - -	4	Carriers, - - - -	2
Shoemakers, - - - -	5	Slaters, - - - -	2
Carpenters, - - - -	6	Toll-bar keeper, - - -	1
Innkeepers, - - - -	2	Servants residing in the families,	98
Nailer, - - - -	1		
Masons, - - - -	5		

On comparing the Government census of 1821 with that of 1831, it will appear as if the population of the parish had retrograded during that period. There is reason to believe, however, that there is a mistake here, independent of that already noticed, occasioned in the census 1821 by counting the volunteers first separately and then over again, according to their respective occupations. On rectifying this mistake, it will be found that the number of inhabitants has been, during the last ten years, very nearly stationary.

The following is the average number of persons of different ages.

Under 15 years of age.	-	466
Between 15 and 30,	-	282
Between 30 and 50,	-	242
Between 50 and 70,	-	117
Upwards of 70,	-	40

1147

There is but one resident proprietor of land in the parish, and his estate, which he holds in his own possession, may amount to about L. 200 a-year. There are four other heritors, and the property of each exceeds the yearly sum of L. 50.

The number of unmarried men, (bachelors and widowers,) upwards of 50 years of age, amounts to 7; and of unmarried women upwards of 45, to 49.

Estimating by the private census of the writer, there were in 1823-24, 143 married couples in the parish, whose offspring, male and female, amounted to 586, which makes an average of somewhat more than four children residing in married families. If we include the unmarried heads of families, the average number of children will not amount to more than two and a-half. Were we to take into account the children still alive who have left the paternal roof, the average would of course be greater.

*Character of the People, &c.*—The intellectual, moral, and reli-

rious character of the people is such as generally prevails over the agricultural districts of Scotland, and honourably distinguishes the peasantry of this country from the same class of inhabitants in any other country of the world. The day-labourers, especially those who have families, suffer numerous privations with exemplary patience. They are in general sober, active, and industrious; but the want of constant employment prevents them from acquiring many of the comforts and conveniences of life, and not unfrequently reduces them to severe distress.

About half a century ago, when the Isle of Man was a separate principality, many temptations were held out for smuggling, which some of the inhabitants of this parish, as well as of the neighbouring district, had not sufficient virtue to resist; but this irregularity has long ceased. Poaching in game, however, still continues to be a source of animosity between the lower and higher ranks of society.\*

There is no insane person in the parish, nor any who, in the strict sense of the word, can be called fatuous, though there are two or three individuals obviously deficient in their intellectual powers. One of these was till lately exceedingly remarkable for the extent of his memory, and his powers of mental calculation,—faculties which have been much impaired by frequent epileptic attacks, to which he is subject. There is one poor woman blind, and another who was born deaf and dumb, besides whom there is one man who lost his hearing by disease.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

##### *Agriculture and Rural Economy.*

The number of acres standard imperial measure in the parish which are either cultivated or occasionally in tillage, is	-	-	-	5500†
The number of acres of moss which never have been cultivated, and which remain constantly waste, or in pasture, or are used for peats,	-	-	-	1400
The number of acres at present subject to be overflowed by the tide which might be made good arable land by embanking	-	-	-	1000
The number of acres in a state of undivided common,	-	-	-	none
The number of acres under wood,	-	-	-	520‡
Acres in the parish,				8420
Of the above 1400 acres of moss, perhaps one-half might be profitably improved, amounting to 700,	-	-	-	700

\* When the present incumbent was settled in the parish upwards of thirty years ago, cock-fighting was a favourite amusement among the less respectable class of the people. He used every effort to put an end to this demoralizing practice, and happily succeeded.

† 174 of these acres have been brought into cultivation since 1825.

‡ 203 acres of these have been planted since 1812.

The kinds of trees generally planted or indigenous in the parish are oak, \* ash, larch, Scotch fir, birch, alder, &c. The Earl of Mansfield keeps a forester, under whose judicious management he receives from his woods by periodical felling, by thinning, and by preparing bark, an income of from L. 500 to L. 600 a-year.

*Husbandry, &c.*—With regard to the state of husbandry, the common breeds of sheep and cattle, rate of labour, and the price of different articles of raw produce, this parish differs little from the parishes in the vicinity, and, to avoid inconvenient repetition, the reader is referred to the Accounts of these parishes for information on such subjects. The farm-buildings and inclosures are far from being in a satisfactory state, which circumstance certainly operates in various ways as an obstacle to improvement. The duration of the leases, however, which is usually fifteen years, is thought to be equitable at once to the landlord and to the tenant.

The following is an account of the land in lease, the rental, the farm produce, and the live stock of the parish, as contained in the private census already-mentioned, taken by the writer in 1823–24.

Land on lease (exclusive of moss)	- - -	5500 acres.†
Rental,	- - -	L. 4527 15 0
White crop (of which 179 acres are in wheat)	- - -	1235 acres.
Green crop,	- - -	269 acres.
Number of horses,	- - -	174
cattle,	- - -	815
sheep,	- - -	378
pigs,	- - -	368

The average gross amount and value of raw produce raised yearly in the parish may be as follows :

Produce of grain of all kinds, &c,	- - -	L. 5500 0 0
of potatoes, turnips, &c,	- - -	2220 0 0
of hay, &c.	- - -	500 0 0
of flax,	- - -	0 0 0
of land in pasture, &c. at L. 2 per cow, and 6s. per ewe,	- - -	1830 0 0
of gardens and orchards,	- - -	50 0 0
of annual thinning of woods, &c.	- - -	500 0 0
The rest nil.		

Total yearly value, &c.	- - -	L. 10,100 0 0
-------------------------	-------	---------------

\* It may not be improper to record here, that some boys transplanted a young oak on the day of the first anniversary of the battle of Waterloo to a spot a few paces in front of the manse door, under the roots of which a bottle was afterwards deposited, containing an inscription, which some antiquary of a future age may delight to find and to decipher. This tree bears the name of the Waterloo Oak.

† This is independent of the minister's glebe, which consists of thirty-six acres, nearly five of which are occupied with a garden, pleasure-ground, and plantation round the manse, the rest being all arable, and subjected to a rotation of five years.

Considerable improvements have been made by various farmers on portions of the moss lands within their respective farms; and it may be proper to mention one tenant in particular, who, by wedge-draining and judicious cultivation, has reclaimed many acres from a state of waste and unproductive morass, and converted them into good arable ground.

Some valuable land has also been reclaimed along the shore of the Solway Frith; but this has hitherto been done on a very small scale, though there can be no doubt that Lord Mansfield might, with much profit to himself, as well as advantage to the parish, gain from the tide by that operation a tract of fertile soil little short of a thousand acres. This extensive improvement was spoken of so far back as the time when Sir John Sinclair's Account was drawn up, and has of late been again under consideration, but without any prospect of being soon carried into effect; and yet it appears to the writer that there could scarcely be a more beneficial investment of capital. \*

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Villages.*—This is entirely a country parish, lying between the towns of Dumfries and Annan, from the former of which the church is distant about ten miles; and from the latter, seven. There are two small villages in the parish. The one, called the village of Ruthwell, containing nearly 180 inhabitants, and the other, called Clarencefield, containing about 100. The village of Ruthwell was made a burgh of barony by charter of James VI. to Sir John Murray of Cockpool in 1509, with the privilege of holding fairs and markets, which has long been disused. It is a place without trade or manufacture.

\* The practice of making salt by filtrating the sea sand or *sleetch*, described with sufficient accuracy in Sir John Sinclair's Statistical Account, and detailed by the writer of this more at large in Dr Singer's Agricultural Survey of Dumfries-shire, has altogether ceased along this coast since the removal of the salt duty, as it has, by this means, become much cheaper to purchase salt than to manufacture it after the method pursued here. The act of the Scottish Parliament, on which the Annandale saltmakers founded this right to exemption from duty, is dated 12th July 1671, and proceeds on a supplication by Adam Newall, "in behalf of some people and tenants in Annandale, who, by their industry and wholesome labour, do, from sand, draw salt, and who, in regard to the painfulness and singularity of the work, have been free of public imposition or exaction; until the year 1656, or thereby that the late usurper, contrary to all reason, equity, or former practice, forced from them an exaction, to their overthrow and ruin, and thereby dispossessed them, so that they are in a starving condition." Several attempts were at different times made, to subject the Annandale salt to the payment of the usual duty, but without success.

*Means of Communication.*—The access to the parish is easy, as it is traversed by one of the great toll roads leading from Dumfries to Annan and Carlisle, which is kept in excellent repair. A heavy coach passes and repasses daily along this road through the towns already-mentioned, which affords a ready means of conveyance to all parts of the kingdom. There is also a runner who resides in the parish, and who goes regularly with letters and parcels to Dumfries and Annan on alternate days, Sabbath excepted, as well as a carrier, who drives his cart to the former town twice, and to the latter once, a-week. Besides these modes of communication by land, there is a creek at the debouche of the Lochar, where small vessels find access, and by means of which the inhabitants are usually supplied with coal from the opposite coast of Cumberland.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church is situated within the precincts of the glebe, about a mile and a-half from the eastern extremity of the parish, and between five and six miles from its western extremity. As the two villages, however, lie towards the east, each about half a-mile distant from the church, its situation could not be considered as inconvenient, were it not that on the west the Locharwoods quarter stretches to a considerable distance in a long stripe, bounded on the one side by the stream of the Lochar, and on the other side by the morass of that name, and rendered difficult of intercourse by the badness of the roads. This place of worship was about a century ago a miserable building thatched with heath. When the present incumbent came into possession of the living (in 1799) it was scarcely in a better condition; for, though slated, it still remained without a ceiling, and was of most inconvenient dimensions, being within the walls 96 feet long, and only 14 broad. Soon after this period, it underwent a thorough change, 30 feet having been taken off its length, and ten feet added to its breadth. It was even then, however, finished in a very slovenly manner, and has since undergone, at different times, considerable repairs, which have at last rendered it comparatively comfortable, though still, in point both of accommodation and of architecture, much inferior to some of the neighbouring churches, and to the average state of these public buildings throughout the country. It affords easy accommodation for about 420 sitters. There are only ten or twelve sittings unappropriated; but the accommodation of the villagers and cottagers has

been liberally attended to, so far as the contracted room would admit.

The manse was built a little more than a century ago, and soon after the accession of the present incumbent, received considerable repairs, with the addition of two rooms.

The glebe contains somewhat more than thirty-six acres, but the land is only of moderate quality, though it has been much improved within the last thirty years by enclosing, draining, and cultivation. It might let at present on lease for 30s. or 35s. an acre.

The whole teinds of the parish were granted to the living, by decret of the Court of Session in 1821,—amounting to L. 262, 18s. 10 $\frac{4}{10}$ d.

Except five or six individuals, the whole inhabitants of the parish belong to the Established church, and their attendance is in general constant and exemplary. There are in the parish between 300 and 400 regular communicants.

*Education.*—There are two parochial schools in the parish, besides one or two schools taught occasionally by private individuals, on a very small scale. The chief parochial school is in a very thriving condition, and, when most numerous attended, contains about 200 scholars. The average number may be about 150. Besides the ordinary branches, the classics and French, as well as geography, mensuration, &c. are successfully taught in this academy. The other parochial school, which is established in the more remote and almost detached district of Locharwoods, has for some time been in a languishing condition, owing to the precarious health of the teacher. He has, however, of late procured an assistant, whose instructions between 20 and 30 scholars at present attend.

The salary of the principal schoolmaster was fixed by the heritors and minister (when convened under the statute, after the striking of the average) at the value of two chalders, being L. 34, 4s. 5d. and that of the other schoolmaster, at the value of half a chalders, being L. 8, 11s. 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.; but, as the legality of this latter decision has been justly disputed, the question as to the power of altering it is at present under consideration.

The school fees were, in the year 1803, settled by the presbytery of Annan, for all the schools within its bounds, as follows, viz. For English reading, per quarter, 2s.; for reading and writing, 2s. 6d.; for reading, writing, and arithmetic, 3s. 6d.; for the classics,



5s. The amount of fees actually received by the parochial schoolmaster may be L. 45 a-year.

The writer believes that there is not a single native parishioner upwards of six or seven years of age who cannot read; nor does he know of any individuals who have settled in the parish from a distance by whom this advantage is not enjoyed. There are several females of the lowest class who cannot write, but, so far as he knows, not a single male above the age of ten or twelve.

Besides the weekly schools, there are three Sabbath schools regularly taught in the parish, one in the manse during winter, and in the church during summer; another in the village of Ruthwell; and a third in the school-house of Locharwoods; at which, collectively, about 120 scholars are instructed in the first principles of religion. These schools have been attended with the happiest effects, forming, as they do, a more intimate and salutary connection between the minister and his youthful parishioners, and serving to impress upon the minds both of parents and children the paramount value of a Christian education. Such institutions have, indeed, been objected to, from a fear lest they should take religious instruction out of the hands of parents, or at least render these natural guardians less alive to the duty of personally inculcating on their offspring the truths and obligations of our holy faith. But the experience of the writer has led him to form a directly contrary opinion; and he can confidently affirm, that since the introduction of Sabbath schools into the parish, his people have been visibly more attentive than formerly to the pious instruction of their children at home,—a fact which he considers of unspeakable importance, and which he believes to be consistent with the experience of all who have heartily adopted the system.

*Literature.*—A parochial library was established in the parish about thirteen or fourteen years ago, when a number of appropriate books were procured by subscription; but there were only a few individuals, beside the minister and principal schoolmaster, who took a warm interest in the scheme; and the subscribers having gradually dropt off, it is at present entirely disused. An attempt, however, is now making to revive this useful institution, which promises to be much more successful.\* Meanwhile, a library connected with the Sabbath schools is in active operation, which furnishes

\* Since writing the above the library has been revived with every prospect of success.

the means of improving reading not only to the children connected with them, but also to their parents, of which they eagerly avail themselves.

*Charitable and other Institutions.*—There are two friendly societies in the parish, the one for males, and the other for females,—the former of which has been in existence about thirty-six years, and the latter upwards of thirty. They are both in a flourishing condition in point of numbers;\* notwithstanding the members have been so imprudent as to make a division of part of their funds on two several occasions during years of scarcity,—a measure which the minister, who has always taken a leading interest in both institutions, did every thing in his power to prevent. Where the necessity of relieving the pressure of immediate want was so strong, it was scarcely to be expected that his remonstrances should have been effectual, especially as the example was set by almost all the neighbouring societies. It is, however, to be hoped that the wise provisions of the Friendly Society Act passed in 1829, will operate as an effectual check on such improvident conduct for the future. How far such institutions serve to promote industry, it may be difficult to say,—but that they are productive of other advantages of great importance, cannot be doubted. In this parish, they have been a powerful means of preserving in the minds of the people a spirit of independence, and of restraining the evils of pauperism, which in other places the circumstances of the times have contributed so largely to extend.

*Savings Bank.*—A parish or savings bank, has been established in this parish since the year 1810.† The funds of the institution

\* There are about 130 members in the male society, and about 90 in the female.

† The circumstances which led to the formation of this institution are thus detailed in an essay on parish banks, published by the author in 1815: “About the beginning of the year 1810, the founder of that establishment had been anxiously employed in examining the different plans which had from time to time been suggested for ameliorating the condition of the lower orders; and in the course of his inquiries, he happened to meet with a pamphlet giving an account of a scheme called by the inventor, (John Bone, Esq. of London), “Tranquillity,” of a nature perhaps too complicated for general adoption. One of the proposed provisions of this plan, however, was an economical bank for the reception of the small savings of the industrious. The benefit which might result from carrying a plan of this latter kind into effect immediately appeared to the writer in a very strong light, and he determined, as the best means of ultimately introducing it to general notice, to try, in the first place, the effect of its operation in the very contracted sphere of his own parish. In this attempt there were discouragements of a peculiar kind, which it will not be improper to state, that the success of the experiment may appear in its true light. In point of local circumstances, indeed, there are perhaps few parishes in Scotland where the scheme might

have been gradually progressive, and at last settlement in May 1833, amounted to the sum of L. 3143, 2s. 2d. giving an average yearly increase since the commencement of somewhat more than L. 146. The average amount invested yearly is L. 600; withdrawn yearly, L. 400.

Banks for savings have now got so firm a footing in the united kingdom, and have extended themselves so rapidly to other countries, that it seems superfluous in this place to detail their advantages. But it is to be feared that these institutions have in many instances operated to the injury of Friendly societies—kindred establishments which every person acquainted with the circumstances and wants of the lower orders must regard as useful auxiliaries, and not as rivals. The latter are in truth the only protection to individuals belonging to the labouring class of the community, in the event of their being overtaken by sudden illness, or disability, before they could have made any considerable accumulation in a savings bank.

*Associations, &c.*—Two societies for religious purposes, one male and the other female, have, for a number of years, subsisted in the parish; but the unhappy disputes which originated from the misconduct of the managers of the British and Foreign Bible Society have cooled the ardour of many, and reduced both societies to little more than a mere nominal existence. The annual average amount of their joint contributions may perhaps have been from L. 8 to L. 10.

not have been tried to greater advantage than in the parish of Ruthwell. One of these discouragements arose from want of resident heritors, who might countenance the undertaking with their approbation, and support it with their purse and influence. But there was a still more formidable difficulty to encounter. Notwithstanding by far the greater part of the inhabitants are poor villagers, or cottagers, without manufactures, or any other means of subsistence, than such as are usually to be found in a remote country parish, there were a great majority of the adults (no fewer than 300 individuals, out of a population of 1100) already connected with friendly societies, within the bounds of the parish. It was well known that by far the greater part of these individuals were obliged to strain every nerve for a bare subsistence, and, so far from being able to lay up any additional savings, found at times extreme difficulty in fulfilling their engagements to the established societies. As these institutions were under the immediate superintendence of the author, he was not ignorant of the facts stated; but they did not seem to him to constitute an objection sufficiently strong to deter him from making a trial of the projected scheme. He knew from experience that he had to deal with a sober, virtuous, and well-informed population, and, on this single favourable circumstance, he founded the conviction, that his attempt would not prove altogether abortive. He was not disappointed, the scheme was drawn up and put into execution, with the advice and co-operation of some of the most respectable inhabitants of the parish; and in the period of four years and a-half, the funds of the institution have risen to upwards of L. 1160."

The Annandale Society for the Conversion of the Jews also holds its meetings in this parish. Its annual contribution to that object is about L. 10 or L. 12.

To these societies may be added one instituted for the purpose of purchasing school-books for the use of poor scholars. These books are not given, but lent to the children, who are required to return them when no longer needed in the school. Much good has been effected by this association at a trifling expense.

Besides the sums thus raised, about L. 6 or L. 7 may be annually obtained in church by extraordinary collections for religious and charitable objects.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The following tabular view of the state of the poor in this parish drawn up in 1827, for the information of the heritors, will afford a more distinct account of the situation and circumstances of those who receive parochial aid than could easily be done by any other mode of representation. The only alteration made on it worth mentioning, is the substitution of numbers in place of the names of the individuals.

Poor roll of the parish of Ruthwell for the year ending in October 1827 :

No.	Age.	Ground of Claim.	Annual allowance.	Other means of support.
F. * 1	86	Old, feeble, and no children.	L. 1 5 0	Lodges vagrants.
F. 2	85	Ditto, a son who resides at a distance, and gives her very little, - - -	1 2 0†	No other means except the charity of her neighbours.
F. 3	54	Blind, - - -	1 19 0	A married daughter.
M. 4	78	His wife bedrid, - - -	0 15 0	His own labour.
F. 5	74	Old and feeble, - - -	1 9 0	A daughter deaf and dumb.
M. 6	74	Feeble, and in bad health, - - -	1 2 0	His wife works a little.
F. 7	74	Old and feeble, - - -	1 0 0	Works a little.
F. 8	64	Incapable of much exertion, - - -	1 0 0	Works a little.
F. 9	59	In bad health, - - -	1 3 0	Teaches a few children.
F. 10	82	Old and feeble, - - -	1 5 0	A daughter married, but deserted by her husband, and left with children.
F. 11	64	Feeble, and without relations, - - -	1 5 0	Works a little,
M. 12	61	In bad health, - - -	1 1 0	Begs.
F. 13	70	Two feeble old women, - - -	1 5 0	Spin a little.
F. 14	47	In very delicate health, and without relations, - - -	1 4 0	Spins a little.
F. 15	70	Old and feeble, - - -	1 5 0	Her son a labourer, with a large family.
Carry forward,			L. 18 0 0	

\* *F.* marks the females, and *M.* the males.

† The sum advanced for this pauper was afterwards recovered, by legal steps, from her son.

				Brought forward, L.		18	0	0		
F. 16	81	Old and feeble,	- -	1	5	0			A widowed daughter.	
F. 17	71	Old and feeble,	- -	1	5	0			A daughter.	
F. 18	61	Paralytic and helpless,	- -	1	9	0			Her children work a little.	
M. 19	80	Feeble, but industrious,	- -	1	8	0			Works a little.	
F. 20	78	Old and feeble,	- -	1	5	0			A daughter.	
F. 21	77	Old and feeble,	- -	0	17	0			A daughter.	
F. 22	89	Old, feeble, and blind,	- -	1	5	0			A son with a large family.	
				<i>Paupers partially supported</i>						
				<i>by the session,</i>		L.	26	14	0	
<hr/>										
F. 23	61	Deranged, and requires constant attendance,	- -	L.	7	16	0		No other means except charity,	
F. 24	84	Bedrid for many years,	- -	5	4	0			Relations and other charity.	
F. 25	89	Bedrid,	- -	3	18	0			Her son a labourer with a family.	
M. 26	81	Blind and paralytic,	- -	3	18	0				
				<i>Chiefly supported by the session,</i>						
						L.	20	16	0	
				<i>Partially supported as above,</i>						
							26	14	0	
<hr/>										
				Total for enrolled poor,		L.	47	10	0	

Besides the enrolled poor, it is frequently necessary to extend the assistance of the session to indigent individuals, who, from sickness or other causes, fall into temporary want; but the whole sum yearly expended by the session (exclusive of extraordinary demands in years of scarcity) does not amount to more than L. 54 or L. 55 a-year.

To meet this expenditure, the church collections amount to about L. 25 yearly,—a sum by no means small, when the nature of the population is considered, which is entirely agricultural. The heritors supply the remainder on the private application of the minister, by an annual contribution, altogether voluntary, without any stated meetings, or any nice adjustment of their subscriptions, to the relative value of their property in the parish. Indeed, of the five heritors by whom the whole land of the parish is possessed, two contribute very little to the support of the poor; the kirk-session choosing rather to throw themselves on the generosity and good sense of those who are willing to give, than, by calling legal meetings, to bring a permanent and necessarily increasing poor rate on the parish, with all its demoralizing consequences.

A practice used formerly to prevail in this parish, and is still customary in the neighbourhood, of raising a small sum for the relief of a poor family, by means of what is called *a drinking*,—a kind of rustic ball, for which *whisky* and other refreshments were

procured by those intended to be benefited. The custom was, for two individuals, furnished with a certificate by the minister, to go through all the respectable houses in the parish, inviting the inhabitants to this festivity, and, through these agents, such as could not find it convenient to give their personal attendance, were expected to bestow on the family in question a charitable contribution. Meetings of this kind, however, being frequently attended with irregularities, were discouraged by the present incumbent; and the *drinking* having in consequence fallen into disuse, simple contributions raised by persons offering their gratuitous services, or hired for the purpose of collecting them, have been happily substituted in their stead.

*Inns and Alehouses.*—In this parish the writer took much pains, and incurred considerable obloquy, in endeavouring to suppress unnecessary public-houses. Notwithstanding all his efforts, however, there are still three licensed houses of this description within the parish, where one would be quite sufficient.

*Fuel.*—The fuel usually employed by the inhabitants is peat, procured from that branch of the Lochar moss which skirts the parish. It is of tolerable quality, and may probably cost somewhat more than a shilling a cart load, when carried home, and stacked up for use. Coal is also used by the better classes, of which sixty or seventy tons may be yearly consumed in the parish. It is procured, as already mentioned, from the opposite coast of Cumberland, and costs from seven to eight shillings the ton of fourteen cwt.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The funeral rites are now performed in this part of Scotland with a decent solemnity; but till lately, the demoralizing practice of presenting several services, as they are called, of spirituous liquors prevailed very extensively among the middle and lower classes in this district. The custom was the more inveterate, as on such occasions the minds of the relatives of the departed are apt to be unhinged, and less capable, perhaps, of acting with decision than at other times. The present incumbent fell on a simple expedient, by which this practice has been completely abolished. Having engaged the co-operation of some of the leading men in the parish, he drew up a subscription paper, binding the subscribers, among other less important regulations, to give only one service when they had the melancholy duty of presiding at a funeral themselves, and

to partake of only one service when they attended the funeral of a neighbour. This paper was readily subscribed by almost every head of a family in the parish, and whatever was injurious in the practice was abolished at once. It required, indeed, some little attention and perseverance to prevent the revival of so ancient a custom; but the propriety and usefulness of the change was so clearly seen, that it has not only been firmly established in the parish, but has given rise to similar resolutions in all the neighbouring parishes, and, speaking generally, may be said to have effectually rooted out the former practice, throughout the whole surrounding district. If in any other quarter of the country a similar abuse exists, the philanthropist may learn from this example how to apply a remedy.

*March 1834.*

# PARISH OF CUMMERTREES.

PRESBYTERY OF ANNAN, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.

THE REV. GEORGE GILLESPIE, MINISTER.

---

## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name, Boundaries, &c.*—IN the charter-deeds of the 12th century, the name of the parish is Cumbertrees, which Chalmers in his *Caledonia* derives from the three British words, *Cum-ber-tres*, signifying “the hamlet at the end of the short valley”—and probably referring to a hamlet or village, not on the site of the present village of Cummertrees, but more to the south, and nearer to the sea than the present village, upon a small piece of level ground, at the end of a short valley, formed into an angle by two streams, meeting in front, and taking from thence a lateral direction to the sea. Some of the old inhabitants still remember several houses standing upon the site referred to; and from the great number of hearth stones dug up, and the quantity of charred wood found by the farmer in ploughing the ground, there is reason to believe that at one time it had been a hamlet of considerable size. Many, however, are of the opinion that the parish got the name of Cummertrees, from its being formerly covered with timber; large quantities of which are still found in the different mosses throughout the parish.

Cummertrees, (including the parish or chapelry of Trailtrow, annexed to it since the Reformation,) is about 7 miles in its greatest length, and about 4 in its greatest breadth, containing upwards of 8000 Scotch acres.

It is bounded on the south by the Solway Frith; on the east, by the parishes of Annan, Hoddam, and St Mungo; by Dalton on the north; and Ruthwell on the west. In its form it is exceedingly irregular, especially on the east; whilst an arm of Cummertrees extends to the bridge at the burgh of Annan, a broad belt of Annan parish penetrates nearly to its centre.



*Topographical Appearances.*—The greater part of the parish is an inclined plain, rising gently from the south towards the north. The highest point of land in Cummertrees is the ridge on which stands the tower of Repentance, being nearly 200 feet above the level of the sea. From Repentance, the ground descends rapidly for upwards of half a mile towards the N. E. as far as the river Annan, which forms the boundary between Cummertrees and the parishes of Hoddam and St Mungo. The whole of the coast is flat, sandy, and uninteresting. The only bay in the parish is Queensberry Bay, where vessels of a small burden can be sheltered from the N. and N. W. winds. A small stream named Cummertrees Pow winds into the Frith through the centre of the bay, and on each side stands Queensberry village, much frequented during the summer months by bathers from the interior.

*Meteorology, Climate, &c.*—The climate is moist and variable, which may be partly attributed to the large tracts of flat and uncultivated moss scattered over various parts of the country, as well as to the vast quantities of fresh water flowing daily into the Solway from the rivers Nith, Annan, Esk, and Eden. In showery weather, it is curious to see how nature replenishes her watery store-houses, by drawing vapours from the Frith, which are collected in clouds along the steeps and summits of the hills on each side of the coast, and scattered by the first blast of the W. and S. W. winds in showers over the lower districts of Dumfries-shire. The thermometer in a room in Cummertrees manse, fronting the S. E. fell in the winter of 1830–31, as low as 22°, and in the months of June and July in the same years, rose as high as 84°; but the medium temperature is about 55° Fah.

The prevailing winds throughout the year are the S. and S. W. A clear sky in the E. in the morning, with black clouds in the W. is considered an infallible sign of rain before night. If the sea-fowls are observed flying with loud cries, from the sea towards the land, making sharp curves in the air, lighting for an instant on the fields, then suddenly rising again,—this also is considered the prognostic of a coming storm. Few parishes in the south of Scotland are more healthy and subject to less frequent epidemics than Cummertrees. From the variableness of the weather, during the winter months, common colds are not unfrequent; but of simple typhus, there is seldom a case south of Repentance-ridge. The land (as has already been observed) rises gradually from the sea towards the north; and there is little stagnant or standing water

in the parish to generate infection ; nor is there a glen or ravine of any extent to prevent the wind from having a free and full sweep over nearly the whole parish, from the sea.

*Hydrography.*—The Solway Frith that bounds Cummertrees on the south is, in width from shore to shore, opposite this parish, fully seven miles, when it is full tide ; but when it is ebb-tide, the only water in the Frith is that of the rivers Esk, Eden, and Annan ; the Esk and Eden unite several miles to the east of Cummertrees, and after their junction with the Annan, they run for upwards of a mile in one large and deep navigable channel. The stream then suddenly separates, one part running along the English coast, and another along the Scotch, forming what is commonly called the English and Scotch channels. From the vast plain of sand over which the Solway tide flows, the water near to the shore is generally muddy ; for the same reason, the temperature is higher than common. In dry seasons, when there is but little fresh water flowing into the Solway, its saltness is nearly equal to that of the Frith of Forth a few miles to the N. E. of Newhaven. The tide in the Solway ebbs very far, and flows again sometimes at the rate of eight or ten miles an hour, when the wind blows hard from the S. and S. W. When the tide is coming in these angry moods, its loud roaring is heard by the people along the shore for upwards of twenty miles before it reaches them. In such seasons, before the first wave is discernible from the shore, there is seen a cloud of spray whirling and dashing forward ; then a long curved white and flowing surf, and on a sudden, the large wave itself appears throwing forward its speckled body three feet abreast with awful impetuosity.

The only mineral springs in Cummertrees are chalybeates. One near Cummertrees mill is sometimes recommended by the neighbouring physicians, and, were any care taken to keep it free of common water, its healing properties would no doubt much increase.

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—The only two kinds of rocks as yet found in Cummertrees are limestone and sandstone ; the direction is to the N. E. The sandstone along the south of the parish is of a very soft quality, and lies generally below a covering of sand, gravel, or moss ; towards the middle of the parish it becomes harder, and lies either under, or parallel with the limestone. In the north of the parish, the sandstone rises to the surface, and is of so hard a quality that it is very difficult to be wrought. The

limestone bed is about 30 feet in thickness, and inclines one foot in seven, and sometimes dips or sinks a foot at once, then suddenly rises again for upwards of a mile to the N. E. of the present quarry, where it sinks below the sandstone, and does not appear again until about six miles from the present Kelhead quarry, in the parishes of Annan and Middlebie, where there are several lime-works. The lime at Kelhead in Cummertrees is considered far superior to any in the country, being ninety-six parts pure in a hundred. No veins or fissures are cut across, nor are there any separate beds of magnesian limestone found intermixed with the common limestone. Rolled blocks or boulders of limestone are frequently found imbedded in the earth that covers the limestone rock, but are always separated from the solid rock by a thick layer of clay; and the organic remains formed in the limestone belong both to the animal and vegetable kingdoms, and lie near to the bottom of the quarry imbedded in large boulders of brown-coloured marble, which, when cut and polished, are exceedingly beautiful, being curiously speckled with the various petrifications. The vegetable remains bear a strong resemblance to reeds. The animals are chiefly large and beautiful party-coloured shells, and *cornua ammonis* of various sizes. Some of the shells, orthoceratites, when got out, are nearly two feet in length, and bear a strong resemblance to the vertebræ of sharks. Marl used formerly to be dug from two or three bogs in the parish; but since the opening of the lime-works at Kelhead, the digging of marl has been dropt; indeed it is generally supposed that there is but little marl remaining to be dug in the parish. Several trials have been made to find coal, but they have hitherto proved unsuccessful. It is indeed to be suspected, that none of the borings have been carried deep enough,—at least none of them have been wrought to nearly one-third of the depth of the Cumberland field that is now working near Whitehaven, and has already advanced two miles in the direction of Scotland, below the sands of the Solway, without any appearance of the field diminishing.

The soil of the parish is of various kinds; some parts sandy, others gravelly, others of deep rich loam; but the greater part is a thin wet clay over hard till, and requires both much labour and manure before it will grow crops of any kind.

*Zoology.*—The River of Annan, which skirts this parish to the east, abounds in salmon, common trout, and herling. It is much disputed among fishers, whether or not the herlings are a species

of fish distinct from the salmon. Those who maintain that they are distinct, argue that there are two kinds of herlings, the one red, the other white; while the other party deny this, alleging that the same herling is red at one season of the year, and white at another, and that, when they have plenty of food, they become red earlier in the season than at other times: these further maintain, that, after remaining two seasons in the river, they go down to the sea in spring, and return salmon in the following autumn.\* In the Solway Frith are taken large quantities of salmon, sea-trout, herling, flounders, and a small species of the cod, called codlings. Turbot and soles are also sometimes caught, but not in large quantities. The fishings on this part of the Solway close on the 25th of September, and open again on the 10th of March; but it is generally thought that it would be a better regulation did it both open and close a month later. Considerable quantities of mussels and cockles are gathered by the poor people along the shores of the Solway, and sold weekly at the Dumfries and Carlisle markets.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Land-owners.*—The chief of these is the Marquis of Queensberry, whose property in the parish is upwards of 5000 acres in extent. The only other land-owners in the parish are the Earl of Mansfield, General Sharpe, and Mr Murray of Murraythwaite.

*Parochial Registers.*—The parochial registers of Cummertrees are not yet seventy years old; and indeed it is only within these three years that they have been kept in a regular form.

*Antiquities.*—On the farm of Broom there is a field called Bruce's Acres, where it is said that Robert Bruce, through the treachery of a blacksmith, sustained a severe repulse from the English. A quantity of human bones, and several swords, were lately found in a moss near the field where the battle is said to have been fought.†

\* Mr Pennant first noticed the herling as a separate species, and it is described in Dr Fleming's History of British Animals under the name of *Salmo albus*.

† There is a tradition still current among the people, that Bruce, in passing along the shore, came to a place where a farmer gave him rye-bread to eat, and that he named it Rye-hill, which name it still bears. It is also said, that when Bruce was on the shore, at a place called Priestside, being weary and exhausted by hunger and fatigue, a farmer's wife fed him with bread and eggs, but without salt. On learning that the people along the Priestside were not allowed to make salt, Bruce, with his usual generosity, immediately granted to the people in that quarter a charter to make salt, duty free. Several years before the salt duty was removed, the excise tried the validity of the Priestside, or rather Annandale salt charter, at Edinburgh, when, af-

Vast quantities of arms were lately found in a field on the farm of Corrieknows, in this parish, near the burgh of Annan, but at what period a battle was fought on this spot it is impossible to determine. The farmer who found the arms, considering them of no value to the public, had them all, but a brass battle-axe, converted into husbandry utensils. He says that the swords were about two feet in length, edged on the one side to the handle, and on the other for the half length of the blade : that the spears were long, but were nearly all broken, and were more injured by rust than the swords : that in the same field he also found a number of horse shoes, some of which were an entire circle, and others curiously turned in at the heel, while none of them were exactly in the form of the present horse shoe. The arms were scattered over the field, and not more than eight inches from the surface.\*

ter much litigation, it was found to be good and sufficient ; but, that it was granted according to the circumstances handed down by tradition, cannot be clearly proved. The exemption from salt duty along the coast of the Solway in Annandale depends at present on an act of the Scottish Parliament granted in the time of Charles II. but that act records that it was a privilege enjoyed from time immemorial, till invaded by the usurper, Oliver Cromwell.

\* It would seem from this that the arms had not been buried nor hid there, but that each lay on the place where it had fallen from the hands of its owner. But if this supposition be correct, the battle must have been fought previous to the founding of the burgh of Annan, which is within a mile of the field, and when the surrounding country was an almost entire wilderness ; for, upon any other supposition than that of almost total destitution of inhabitants in the neighbourhood, it would be difficult to conceive how such a great quantity of arms was permitted to remain unmoved till the natural accumulation of debris on the earth's surface formed a covering over them. The subsoil of the field in which they were found is a hard till, almost as impenetrable as rock, otherwise they would no doubt have been sunk much deeper than they were.

There was found in the month of August 1833, on the farm of Hurkledale, Cummertrees, on a piece of moss recently brought under cultivation, upwards of 100 ancient English and Scotch coins. The Scotch coins have on the right side the following inscription :—ALEXANDER DEI GRA + encircling the profile of a king's head crowned, with an inverted sword placed in front of the head. On the reverse side, there is in very distinct characters REX SCOTORVM encircling a cross and four stars, one in each angle of the cross. On the right side of the English coins there is a front view of a king's head crowned, which is encircled with the following letters, EDW R ANGL DNS IVS +. And on the reverse a cross with twelve balls, three forming a triangle in each angle of the cross. The inscriptions round the cross on the English coins are various ; on some the words CIVITAS LONDON are very distinct ; on others CIVITAS CANTOR ; on others CIVITAS EBROCAE ; on others CIVITAS DVBLINIE ; and on others CIVITAS WATERFORD, probably to specify the different places of their coinage. The English and Scotch coins are nearly of the same weight and size, and two pieces are scarcely equal in weight to one sixpence. There is no date on any of the coins. And as there are no numerals after either of the king's names, it is likely that the Scotch are of the reign of Alexander I. of Scotland ; and the English of Edward I. of England. The brow of Alexander, as marked on the coins, is lofty and the countenance fierce, agreeable to the

The only ancient buildings in Cummertrees are the Tower of Repentance, 25 feet in height, and Hoddam Castle, both said to have been built by Lord Herries in the fifteenth century. The tradition concerning the tower is, that Lord Herries having used the stones of the old chapel in building Hoddam Castle, of which he afterwards repented, built the tower both to pacify his own conscience, and to make his peace with the Bishop of Glasgow, who was the diocesan of the chapel. Upon the top of the tower, there still remains a place which has evidently been used to hold the alarm-fire. Few situations could have been better chosen for a watch-tower than the eminence on which it stands. It is seen on all sides for upwards of thirty miles. Hoddam Castle, the only old border place of strength now inhabited in this quarter, stands at the bottom of the hill, directly below the Tower of Repentance, on one of the most beautiful situations that is to be found on the Annan. The castle, like other buildings of the fifteenth century, is chiefly remarkable for its strength, and the thickness of its wall. Several additions have been made to the original building by the different persons who have been its possessors. Its present proprietor, General Sharpe, has lately built a large wing to the whole, (from plans drawn by Mr Burn, architect,) in good taste, and in keeping with the rest of the building. The only modern building of note is Kinmount House, built by the Marquis of Queensberry at the cost of L. 40,000.

### III.—POPULATION.

By the Census of 1821 the population amounted to	-	1561
1831,	- - - - -	1407
Males,	- - - - -	666
Females,	- - - - -	741

The decrease is partly owing to emigration, and partly to the enlargement of farms. The number of the population residing in villages is 351; of families of independent fortune, 3; of proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards, 4; the number of families in Cummertrees, 268; average number of children in each family, 4; number of inhabited houses, 238; number of insane persons, 4; of blind, 2; of deaf and dumb, 1. The number of families employed in agriculture is 83; of families employ-

epithet "acer" given to that king in history; while the countenance and bushy locks on the coins of Edward bear a strong resemblance to the portraits of that monarch.

ed in trade, manufactures, or handicraft, 63; of professional and other educated persons, 14.

*Habits and Character of the People.*—About fifty years ago cock-fighting used to be a favourite amusement among the lower orders; but that barbarous and brutalizing sport is now completely laid aside. The habits of the people in cleanliness have been improved much of late years; and the cottages, with the exception of those inhabited by Irish, are in general as neatly kept as the same style of houses are in England.

The ordinary food of the peasantry for breakfast is oatmeal porridge, with milk, or with beer made from treacle; but coffee and tea are daily becoming more general among all classes. At dinner, Scotch broth and potatoes are used, with butcher-meat, when it can be afforded, or, when this cannot be had, herrings or flounders. Oatmeal porridge is the standing dish for supper. In seasons of scarcity, the poorer classes have sometimes nothing but potatoes to keep them from starvation. The earnings of the labourers are usually very small, but, from their general sobriety and prudent and moral habits, they enjoy far more real comfort than those on the English side of the Frith with nearly double their wages. It is much to be regretted, however, that the demoralizing habit of poaching in game has increased much of late years, nor can it be hoped that the habit will diminish so long as the law continues as it now is. It may be remarked, that many of the farmers, whose crops are injured by game, look on poaching not as a moral delinquency, but as a mere disobedience to arbitrary statutes, which tends to the protection of their own crops.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture and Rural Economy.*—About 6000 imperial acres are occasionally under tillage, and about 800 acres, chiefly moss, have never been cultivated, of which about 300 might be profitably brought into tillage. There is almost no ground in the parish that could be kept in permanent pasture; and the same may be said of nearly two-thirds of all the land in the lower district of Anandale, where the soil is so thin, sandy, and gravelly, that it would require top-dressing every two years; and where the soil is damp, it is a thin, mossy, and spongy substance, lying over a hard and dripping till, which, if not ploughed, in a few years becomes covered with rushes. About 1000 acres are under wood, chiefly planted, and the management of the plantations is in general good.

The Marquis of Queensberry sells annually about L. 600 worth of oak bark, and wood of different kinds.

*Rent of Land.*—The average rent of land in Cummertrees is under L. 1 Sterling per acre. The valued rental of the parish is 3715 merks; the real rental nearly L. 8000. The average rate of grazing a cow or full-grown ox is L. 3, 10s. per head; for full-grown sheep, 5s. per head.

*Rate of Wages.*—Men as farm-labourers during the summer months have 2s. and 1s. 6d. a-day; for the winter months they have 1s. 6d. and 1s. per day. Females for out-door husbandry have 1s. in summer, and 10d. per day in winter. Ploughmen engaged by the year have a free house, and in money and provisions to the amount of L. 20 Sterling per annum; those who get their board and lodging in the farmer's houses receive about L. 12 per annum. Dairy maids about L. 6 per annum. Housekeepers about L. 8 per annum. Country artisans have 2s. 6d. or 3s. during summer, and 1s. 6d. or 2s. per day during winter.

*Breeds of Cattle.*—The few sheep that are bred in the parish are generally a cross between the Cheviot and South-downs. The farmers in general consider it more advantageous to buy sheep for eating their turnip, than to rear them. Many of them let their turnips to graziers to be eaten by sheep upon the ground by the week at so much per head. When turnips are scarce, they let high, as 5d. or 6d. per sheep; and when plentiful, as low as 2½d. and 3d. per sheep.

*Husbandry.*—The general duration of leases is nineteen years. Many of the farm-houses, and most of the inclosures in the parish, are in good condition. So great are the improvements in Cummertrees within the last thirty years, that the appearance of the parish is entirely changed. Many hundred acres of land, which thirty years ago were lying open and waste, are now well enclosed with neatly kept hedge-rows, and either covered with thriving plantations, or regularly cultivated upon the most approved system of husbandry.

*Quarries and Fisheries.*—There are two freestone quarries and one of limestone in the parish. The only fishery is stake-net fishery, rented at about L. 400 per annum. The poor people have liberty to take white fish from 25th September to 10th March.

*Produce.*—The gross amount of raw produce raised in Cummertrees, as nearly as can be ascertained, is as follows :



From horses,	-	-	-	L. 459	0	0
black cattle,	-	-	-	1890	10	0
swine, at 5s. per stone of 14 lbs.	-	-	-	1800	0	0
sheep,	-	-	-	550	0	0
butter, at 9d. per lb.	-	-	-	977	0	0
grain, at 10s. per imperial bushel,	-	-	-	9395	10	0
hay, at 8d. per stone,	-	-	-	1340	0	0
annual thinnings of plantations,	-	-	-	800	0	0
fisheries,	-	-	-	600	0	0
freestone quarries,	-	-	-	50	0	0
lime, 45000 measures, at 1s. 2d. per measure,	-	-	-	2625	0	0
miscellaneous produce,	-	-	-	100	0	0
				<hr/>		
				L. 20,587	0	0
Potatoes, 2150 tons, at L. 1, 10s. per ton,	-	-	-	3,225	0	0
				<hr/>		
				L. 23,812	0	0

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Town, &c.*—The nearest market and post-town is the borough of Annan, four miles distant from the parish church. There are three villages, viz, Cummertrees, Queensberry or Pow-foot, and Kelhead, near the lime-works. The means of communication enjoyed by the parish are excellent. The parish roads are kept in good repair, and it is intersected by upwards of twelve miles of turnpike roads.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The situation of the parish church since the chapelry of Trailtrow was annexed to Cummertrees is inconvenient for the inhabitants in the northern boundaries of the parish, being upwards of five miles distant from some of the houses in that direction. The church was founded by Robert the Bruce. Before the Reformation, it was in the diocese of the Bishop of Glasgow. It has frequently been rebuilt and enlarged. At present it contains accommodation for about 450 sitters, and is in a good state of repair; but it is much too small to hold the number entitled by act of Parliament to church accommodation.

The manse was built about thirty years ago, but is very insufficiently finished, and is smaller than the ordinary style of manses of the present day. The glebe is 24 Scotch acres in extent, and is worth about L. 28 Sterling per annum. The amount of stipend, including the Government allowance of L. 37, 10s. 4½d., is L. 150, with the usual allowance for communion elements. The whole free tield of the parish at the time it was valued amounted only to six chalders, that is, four of meal, and two of barley; but at that time a large portion of the parish was undivided common; and some have

been so uncharitable as to say that the valuator took his report from a proprietor, without examining into the state of the parish.

There are no dissenting or Episcopal chapels; but there are in the parish 19 families of dissenters, and 2 of Episcopalians.

The number of communicants in the Established church has increased 80 within these three years, yet in all, the average number does not exceed 350. About 247 families attend church.

*Education.*—The number of schools in the parish is three, one parochial, one endowed, and one unendowed. The branches taught in the parochial school, besides the ordinary ones, are navigation, geography, Latin, and Greek. And at the other two schools, reading, writing, and arithmetic. The parochial schoolmaster has L. 30 of salary, with the usual allowance of house and garden and school-house, and about L. 30 of fees. The charge, per quarter, for English reading, is 2s.; reading and writing, 2s. 6d.; arithmetic, 3s. 6d.; and Latin and Greek, 5s. All in the parish above eight years of age can read, and the number of those who cannot write does not exceed twenty-five. Education, within these thirty years, has produced a very favourable change in the manners and habits of the people. It has enlarged their ideas, polished their address, and freed them from much prejudice and superstition. No ghosts, fairies, or brownies are to be heard of now. It is, however, much to be regretted that true Christian piety, from whatever causes, has rather retrograded than kept pace with the intellectual improvements of the community.

There are three Sabbath-schools in the parish, one of which the minister superintends. The other two are in more remote parts of the parish. The number of children attending these amounts to about 220.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid is 26, and the average sum allotted to each annually is about L. 3. Some individuals, who are incapable of doing any thing for themselves, receive as high as L. 8 per annum, payable quarterly. A part of the allowance is judiciously appropriated by the heritors and kirk-session to the payment of house rent. The church collections amount to about L. 28 per annum, which is distributed quarterly by the heritors and kirk-session; and when any farther sum is required, the heritors voluntarily assess themselves to the amount, according to their rentals,—and it deserves to be mentioned to their honour, that they have never been backward to grant additional relief to the poor of the parish when

requested. by the kirk-session. Among the native poor, that is, among those who have been born and brought up in the parish, there is still a very general and honourable pride, which renders them averse either to seek or accept of parochial relief, and none of them complain of the smallness of the sums allotted. But among those who have come from distant parishes, and obtained settlements, the feeling against receiving parochial relief is neither so strong nor so general. The Irish, in general, use every method that cunning can devise to get a parish settlement.

*Inns and Alehouses.*—There are three inns and two alehouses within the parish, besides two on the very boundaries of the parish; all licensed to sell ale and spirits, the effect of which is most pernicious to the morals, the health, and comfort of the inhabitants.

*Fuel.*—The fuel of the country people is mostly peats, and costs in cutting, winning, and leading home, about 1s. 2d. per cart load; but excellent coals can be had from the opposite coast for about 8s. per ton of 14 cwt.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The improvements that have been made in Cummertrees since the publication of the last Statistical Account are extensive and varied. What was then peat-bog, the resort of the bittern and lapwing, is now laid out in beautiful green pastures, and surrounded by thriving hedge-rows. There were then scarcely ten acres of wood in the parish, now there are upwards of a thousand. Then, most of the farm-houses were built with low mud walls, covered with straw, which had scarcely a frame of glass in their windows; now, most of the farm-steadings are substantial stone and lime buildings, covered with flag or slate, and kept in a neat and comfortable manner. The only great drawback upon future improvements, and a still greater return of yearly produce from the land, is the high rents of many of the farms, and a consequent yearly diminution of capital among the farmers. Nothing could contribute more to the health and comfort of the labouring-classes in this parish, especially of those who reside in villages, than land whereon to keep a cow, and to grow a few potatoes. The digging of the field would occupy many hours that are spent in idleness, or in the public house, while their cows-milk, and their potatoes, would keep their family from want during the winter months, when little outdoor work is to be had.

*March 1834.*

## PARISH OF DORNOCK.

PRESBYTERY OF ANNAN, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.

THE REV. NICHOLAS SLOAN, MINISTER.

---

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name, Boundaries, &c.*—THE name of the parish is said, in the former Statistical Account, to be derived from the Celtic words *Tor* or *Dor*, signifying an oak or wood, and *nock*, a knowe or hill. But this derivation is questionable; for of the venerable oak, there remains neither root nor branch, and of “hills” this parish cannot boast—the grounds being generally level. Dornock is situated in a neighbourhood proverbially beautiful in its scenery, and much frequented for its salubrious breezes, and for its sea-bathing. Its extent from east to west is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles, and from the Solway Frith to the river Kirtle, about 5 miles. It might have been nearly a square had not a piece of common ground, belonging to Kirkpatrick-Fleming, detached two properties in the north from the west of the parish. It is bounded by the parish of Annan on the west and north; by Kirkpatrick-Fleming on the north-east; by Graitney on the east; and by the Solway Frith on the south. When viewed from the north side of the village, the ground rises in a gentle acclivity, forming a kind of semicircle, bounded by thriving plantations.

*Soil, Climate, &c.*—The soil is generally fertile, and now, under the improved mode of culture, yields abundant crops. The climate is healthy, and the air of late years is said to be milder than formerly. The most prevailing winds are from the south and south-west; but often from the east, when they are generally chilly and piercing, not without rain.

The parish is well supplied with perennial springs of water; one of which is in the glebe, as transparent and sparkling as crystal, pleasant to the taste, light, and much resorted to as giving relief in cases of colic; its composition, however, has never been analyzed. No coal or lime have been found in the parish; but it is not doubted that, were a few enterprising individuals to make the trial, both might be had in abundance.

The extent of the parish along the coast is about three miles; and the shore is sandy and gravelly, mixed with *cobbles* or large stones. The flowing of the tide is extremely rapid, forcing its way with a rise of four or five feet water a-breast, which renders it quite unsafe for strangers to cross the Frith at low water without a guide.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Antiquities, &c.*—A battle is said to have been fought at Swordwell by the Scots and English, which ended in the defeat of the latter. The date is unknown. There may be seen in the church-yard two stones of a singular shape, resting on blocks of the same materials, which are supposed to contain the ashes of the commanders of the English army. A variety of interesting tombstones are to be found in the burial-ground; in particular that of the last of the curates in this place, which has a Latin inscription in Sapphic verse, the first line of which is taken, with a slight alteration, from Hor. xxii. Ode of Lib. i. \*

## III.—POPULATION.

In 1801 the population was	-	691
1811,	-	788
1821,	-	743
1831,	-	752

Of the population in 1831, 230 are in the village of Dornock; the remainder in the country.

1. Number of families in the parish,	-	-	-	-	-	155
of families chiefly employed in agriculture,	-	-	-	-	-	72
					in trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	55
2. The average number of births yearly for the last seven years,	-	-	-	-	-	16
of deaths,	-	-	-	-	-	7
of marriages,	-	-	-	-	-	4

The farmers in this parish are chiefly persons of considerable intelligence; and on many subjects of general literature and science they converse with surprising readiness and accuracy. Persevering and industrious, and adopting the most improved modes of agriculture, they cultivate their lands with taste, and in a regular rotation of crops; and in nothing does the face of the country appear more agreeably changed, than in the thriving hedge-rows and snug enclosures that in every direction meet the delighted eye.

\* See MS. among the Archives of the Church.

## IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture and Rural Economy.*—

Land cultivated,	-	-	-	2890 imperial acres.
never cultivated,	-	-	-	750
capable of being cultivated with a profit,	-	-	-	200
in undivided common,	-	-	-	0
under wood,	-	-	-	40
Total number of acres in the parish,				3880

*Rent of Land.*—The best arable land lets about L. 2 per acre, and inferior at 10s. Nearly one-third of the parish, for the last twenty years, has been let yearly on the ground, in lots for grazing, by public auction; and some enclosures of superior grass, and well-watered, rise as high as L. 3 per acre for six months. The rental of the parish is L. 3300.

*Husbandry.*—The number of ploughs kept in the parish, mostly iron, is 30; of horses kept for farmers' use, 70; of young horses reared, mostly all of the draught kind, 25; of carts employed by farmers and labourers, 70; of cows kept, about 200. The quantity of butter made from these cows may be 280 firkins at 45s. = L. 630. Cheese may be valued at L. 100. About 200 young cattle, chiefly of the Galloway kind, are raised yearly; and 400 swine are fattened yearly at L. 3, 5s. each.

Instead of the former clay cottages, the dwelling-houses and offices of the farmers are now almost all substantial buildings of stone and lime, covered with the best Lancashire slate. The greatest improvements are observable in making and keeping in repair the parish roads, and in the attention paid to draining the land, and fencing it in a husband-like manner,

*Produce.*—Average amount and value of raw produce raised in the parish yearly, may be as follows:

Grain of all kinds,	-	-	-	L. 5250	0	0
Potatoes and turnips,	-	-	-	1700	0	0
Hay of all kinds,	-	-	-	2300	0	0
Flax for the use of private families,	-	-	-	30	0	0
Land in pasture,	-	-	-	1860	0	0
Gardens and orchards,	-	-	-	150	0	0
Annual thinning of plantations,	-	-	-	10	0	0
Fisheries, (sea,)	-	-	-	150	0	0

Total yearly value of raw produce, L. 11,450 0 0

*Navigation.*—There are several merchant vessels employed in conveying goods to and from Liverpool, and a few ships of about 300 tons burden per register, laden with timber from Miramichi

or New Brunswick, which arrive here in the month of August, and which all lie off the mouth of the canal, on the opposite side of the Frith,—an arm of the sea which separates this district from Cumberland.

*Fishings.*—In the Solway, and in the rivers of the parish, there are fisheries in salmon, grilse, sea-trout, flounders, and herlings or whittings. The salmon is chiefly forwarded to the market at Carlisle, in Cumberland, a distance of fifteen miles. At the beginning of the season it is there sold as high as 2s. 3d. and at the end of it, from 1s. to 6d. or 8d. per lib. The fishing is mostly carried on in the mode of trap or stake-nets, set from the shore in a line to the channel or lake, from a quarter of a mile to a mile in length, beginning at the shore with a net 4 feet high, and rising gradually till the net reaches 10 or 12 feet high, with an arm or rail at from 60 to 100 yards separate. This rail or arm is about 40 yards in length, and is set sometimes for the flowing, at other times for the ebbing of the tide, so as to lead the fish into a corner where a trap or pocket is constructed with a little opening gradually declining, so that the salmon or other fish once entrapped seldom or never find the way out. The annual rent of the fishing in the parish is about L. 150. There are from fifteen to twenty persons in the parish who make a living from poek-net or channel fishing. The mode of heaving or hauling is now entirely laid aside.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Means of Communication.*—The turnpike road extends the whole length of the parish; it is part of the great thoroughfare from Portpatrick to Carlisle, Manchester, and London. The Carlisle mail to Portpatrick daily, and a heavy coach to Edinburgh and Glasgow thrice a week, pass and repass through the village. No improvements have been productive of more advantage in this vicinity than the establishment of the steam packet called the *Cumberland*, and the opening of the Carlisle canal. There is a cut from the last mentioned city to Bowness, (the ancient *Blotumbulgium* of the Romans,) a distance of eleven miles. Lighters from the Carlisle basin are employed by the merchants to convey their goods from the steam-vessel to that city. The steamer which sails weekly to Liverpool is as regular in her arrivals and departures as any mail. This vessel carries to that port and other towns immense quantities of bacon hams, sheep, and cattle, and goods of different descriptions, and lands them the day after her departure from the canal. On the 29th

February 1832, there were put on board 500 sheep, 46 cows, and 5 calves. Another steamer, called the *Solway*, has begun, more recently, to ply between Bowness and Liverpool. Both vessels are weekly in full employment, to the advantage of both Annandale and Galloway.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church was built in 1793; it has no gallery, but may accommodate nearly 300 sitters. The glebe, in-field and out-field (for there are two) contains 20 imperial acres, and may be worth L. 30 per annum. The stipend is 14 chalders, half barley, half oat-meal, with L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements. The manse was built in 1778, and has undergone during that time several repairs; the last of which was in 1828. It is still a good and convenient house, and has been well and judiciously planned.

In this parish there are no dissenting chapels, but there are ten families of dissenters who resort to the Secession church at Annan.

The parish church, to the credit of the parishioners, is well and regularly attended by about 145 families; and the number of communicants is about 100.

Sermons are occasionally preached, and collections made for Sabbath schools and Bible societies, the average collection, after deducting the usual sum for the poor, being about L. 3, 10s.

*Education.*—There is one parochial school with a salary of L. 34, 4s. 2d. The fees or school wages do not exceed L. 25 yearly; though they would doubtless amount to more were it not that there are two other schools without salary, where the quarter pence or wages are lower. The schoolmaster has other emoluments to the amount of L. 5 a-year. In the parish school, which is taught by a talented teacher, all the branches which are usually pursued in respectable seminaries are taught with persevering diligence and the strictest accuracy. The master has the legal accommodation, a good house, and a field of nearly an imperial acre, part of which is set apart for a garden. The average number of scholars in the parochial school is 50. There are two other schools, viz. the village school, attended by 40 scholars, and the north school by 20.

*Library.*—A subscription library was established in the parish in the year 1830, and contains now about 100 volumes, some of which were presented by members of the committee of management.

*Poor.*—The number of persons receiving parochial aid is 22; and the average sum allowed to each per week 1s. 1d. The aver-



age yearly amount of contributions for the poor is L. 77, of which L. 11 arises from church collections, and the remainder from assessments.

*Fuel.*—The parishioners of a higher class are supplied with coal brought hither by wherries or small vessels from Whitehaven and Workington, and with excellent lime from Kelhead, the property of the Marquis of Queensberry, a distance of six miles.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The intelligence and moral improvement of the population of the parish, their increasing thirst for knowledge, and their ardent desire for the proper education and instruction of their children, are particularly worthy of remark. In particular, the morals of the people have been greatly improved by the cessation of smuggling, which, about the beginning of the last century, was carried on to a great extent,—the Isle of Man affording an easy opportunity for the conveyance of contraband goods, chiefly brandy and tea.

The general appearance of the parish, as it respects the improvements made in its enclosures and hedges, also merits special attention. An old parishioner informed the present incumbent that, eighty or ninety years ago, not a hedge was to be seen in the whole district. Now the fields are duly enclosed, and hedges and hedge-rows are everywhere seen, which beautify and adorn the fields and pastures. Extraordinary advantages have also been derived from the opening of the canal, and from the great improvement of the parish roads.

*September 1833.*

# PARISH OF GRAITNEY.

PRESBYTERY OF ANNAN, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.

THE REV. JAMES RODDICK, MINISTER.

---

## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name, Boundaries, &c.*—Some suppose the name of the parish to be derived from the Anglo-Saxon words signifying the *Great Hollow*,—others from *Great Knowe* in the Scottish dialect, having reference to a hill within its bounds of considerable altitude. The parish extends six miles in length, and three in breadth, and contains eighteen square miles; the figure is rectangular, and almost rectilinear. It is bounded on the east by England, on the south by the Solway Frith, on the west by the parish of Dornock, and on the north by Kirkpatrick-Fleming and Half-Morton; towards the west and south its surface is generally level, but towards the east and north it rises into a variety of little hills of gentle acclivity, of which Graitney, the highest, does not exceed 250 feet above the level of the sea. From this, however, the prospect is extremely pleasant and extensive, commanding the rich and beautiful vales of Esk and Eden, the Solway Frith, and the coast of Cumberland as far as the Isle of Man, and St Bees westward, and the mountains of Dumfries-shire and Northumberland.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The whole length of this parish is washed by the Solway, the shore of which is but little elevated, and consists of a mixture of sand and clay. Rockcliff sands, outspread between the rivers on the Scotch and English shores, are extensive. There are no bays of any note on the coast, except, perhaps, that opposite Browhouses, formed by the principal headlands, Redkirk and Tordoff points, which last is rather of a bold character,—and, together with Bowness on the opposite shore, confines the impetuous tide within the narrow space of two miles. Then the channel rapidly expands, is divided, and follows the courses of the two rivers Esk and Eden,—thus presenting the semblance of a fine lake of about 40 miles in circumference. At no great dis-

tance from the junction of the two rivers, and near the extremity of the Frith, a large tract of marsh land of a lively green has been formed, and is daily increasing, from the encroachment of the waters on the opposite shores. The tide of the Solway flows directly east with amazing rapidity. Its colour is whitish, caused by its flowing over an immense expanse of sand. Indeed, from the point of Criffel, where the Nith joins the main channel, a space not less than forty miles in length, and eight, at an average, in breadth, the tides completely recede, and leave their channels bare,—a circumstance which obviously renders navigation difficult, nay, almost impracticable, to strangers.

*Meteorology.*—The atmosphere is dry, the climate peculiarly warm and healthy; rain, though sometimes violent, falls not so frequently as in the more elevated parts of the country around. Like the winds, it proceeds chiefly from the south-west, except in the months of March and April, when cold eastern blasts prevail. When the clouds are driven heavily from the south, when the west appears dark and lowering, or when the western rivers and approaching tide are distinctly heard, rain may be confidently expected. A yellowish sky in the south-east also generally betokens a wet day; and Carlisle being situated in that direction, there is a common proverb, which runs, “The Carle sky keeps not the head dry;” when, on the contrary, there is a small space cloudless in the northern horizon, or when the clouds are moving to the south, the husbandman confides in the expectation of fair weather.

*Hydrography.*—There are several excellent perennial springs in this parish, which rise through sandstone rocks, or beds of sand of a reddish colour abounding in the greater part of the lower district of Annandale. Sark, a small stream, separates Graitney from the parish of Kirkandrews in England; and the Kirtle, another small and romantic river, divides it into two nearly equal portions. They both rise from the hills in the neighbourhood of Langholm, and pursue a rapid southern course of about twenty miles, till they are united to the Esk and Eden. The Kirtle flows over a bed of sandstone nearly horizontal. This rock is also found along the whole shore, sometimes in detached masses, and sometimes in layers, varying from 2 to 12 inches.

*Soil.*—The soil on the sea-coast is of a rich loamy nature, spread upon a deep strong clay above sandstone, and appears in many places to have been deposited by the tides, which have evidently risen much higher at a former period. As the ground recedes

from the shore, and becomes more unequal in its surface, the soil also varies, and partakes more of a gravelly and clayey substance, resting upon hills of sand of great dimensions.

Peat-moss is found in several detached portions, in which the remains of oak trees of considerable growth are deposited. In one or two of them were discovered also several coins of silver, on which can be deciphered Canterbury and London, but no date, though they apparently belonged to the reign of one of the Edwards.

*Fisheries, &c.*—There are excellent salmon fisheries on the coast, and sturgeon, cod, and herrings, are caught occasionally, though none of them, perhaps, in such abundance as formerly. Salmon ascend the rivers for spawning in the beginning of October, and return again early in March.

In this parish there are no woods of large extent, though its eastern division has the appearance of one continued forest, from the circumstance, that the hedge-rows, which are kept in good order, are thickly interspersed with ash, oak, and plane trees; among these the ash is predominant, and seems most congenial to the soil. Laburnum is also common, and thrives well. There are many trees of considerable age and size near the church and manse, and many small plantations in places very tastefully selected, which give the scene a sylvan appearance, and contribute much to the warmth of the climate and the fertility of the soil.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Historical Notices.*—Situated on the frontier of Scotland, this parish was undoubtedly the scene of many battles, and many a border feud and foray. The *debateable lands*, lying between the rivers Sark and Esk, now forming the parish of Kirkcubright, were of course for many ages considered common to England and Scotland, and so long as these remained separate kingdoms, gave birth, as might be expected, to prodigious disorders. These lands extended eight miles in length and four in breadth, and were long possessed by a race who acknowledged the laws of neither country. With a view to remedy these evils, in the year 1552, a partition was agreed upon by the sovereigns of the respective domains, and the Scotch dike, a line of plantation drawn between the two rivers, was thenceforward to be the boundary; the eastern division to belong to Scotland, the western to England, such being the inclinations of the inhabitants. The habits of the people, however, continued nearly the same till the union of the kingdoms under James VI., when

vigorous measures were resorted to, and many of them were dispersed over the country, or transported into Ireland. Since that happy consummation, the inhabitants of the whole surrounding district, laying aside their mutual jealousies and hostility, have gradually advanced to a degree of civilization,—and the lands once desolate, though naturally fertile, to a state of cultivation,—far superior to many of the more central parts of the island. It must be confessed, however, that the progress of the people towards this amelioration was gradual, and, in its early stages, exceedingly slow. About fifty years ago the occupations of rural life were but little attended to. The tales of the exploits of their forefathers, and the scenes of so much rapine and bloodshed, tended to keep alive, and to cherish a restless and wayward spirit, which reluctantly yielded to the restraints of law, and settled down into the condition of the farmer and the artisan. Game was abundant, and the Isle of Man, under a separate jurisdiction, held out strong temptations to illicit traffic. Their hands were devoted to the unprofitable amusements of the field, or to the pernicious practice of smuggling. Their families and farms were matters of but secondary consideration, and, it must be admitted, that, with multitudes in the adjacent parishes, a life of predatory warfare was only exchanged, for a considerable period, for that of vicious idleness, and a sort of lawless independence. Daring bands of smugglers continued to infest the border. Tea, tobacco, brandy, and gin, were the chief articles of their contraband trade, which they landed in every creek along the coast, whence their ready friends conveyed them with horses to places of safety. These were found for the most part deep sunk beneath the kitchen floor, or some of the office-houses, or amid wastes of furze, or sometimes, when the men were hard pressed by officers of excise, even in ditches or morasses. These circumstances are still fresh in the memories of many, and some individuals are yet alive who took part in transactions resembling, in their extent at least, the systematic establishments of regular commerce. During the last forty years, however, the improvement has been great. The land-owners of the parish, Lord Mansfield, Sir Patrick Maxwell, Bart., Colonels Maxwell and Graham, have given great encouragement to the industry of the farmers; and farm-houses have been erected, and the fields inclosed in a manner that reflects much credit upon proprietors and tenants.

*Antiquities.*—The sites of several towers are still discernible in the

parish; they were generally of a square form, and were intended for defence in feudal times. Their walls were of an immense thickness, their doors of massy iron. The interior consisted usually of often a ground floor, which contributed to the safety of their cattle, and of two or more upper apartments, with narrow apertures externally for windows, but rapidly enlarging towards the inside, that the inmates, perhaps, might be the better able to annoy the enemy. The most remarkable stood near Stonehouse, on the banks of the Kirtle, at Old Graitney, at Westhill, and at Hirst; but the names and the deeds of the chieftains whom they sheltered are forgotten and unknown.

From an inscription in the church-yard, it appears that a near relation of Sir William Wallace is buried there; and the ashes of many of the Johnstones of Annandale are said to repose within the precincts of the ancient church. The form of some, and the sculpture on others, of the tombstones, appear to indicate their great antiquity; while many epitaphs, and particularly one, of two brothers, who died at the advanced ages of 110 and 111, point out the longevity of the parishioners.

At Redkirk Point, near the farm of that name, once stood the church of Redpatrick or Redkirk, which, like most others in this vicinity, anciently belonged to the see of Glasgow. Of that church or church-yard not a vestige now remains. The tide and river whirling violently round that headland have swept them entirely away; but some old people yet remember the unwelcome sight of bones and coffins protruding from the banks, or collected from the beach into a trough, which had been used as a font in the days of popery.\* A camp of a round shape is still distinctly visible near Barrasgate. A square camp of large dimensions may also be easily traced on the farm of Raeburnfoot. Camp-house, on the Glasgow road, which is supposed to pursue the track of the old Roman one leading to Middlebie and Birrenswark, in all likelihood indicates the site of one of a strong chain of fortifications erected by that ambitious and enterprising people.

On the farm of Old Graitney, and at no great distance from

\* The two parishes were united in 1609, and there is still a Bible in the old English character in the possession of John Graham, Springfield, which bears on its margin that it was presented to the church of Graitney in 1611, only two years subsequent to the union, by Viscount Stormont, the ancestor of the Earl of Mansfield. The print is beautiful, but the leaves are much mutilated, and many books, both of the Old and New Testaments, have been lost.

the confluence of the Kirtle and the Solway, was seen not many years ago a number of white stones placed upright, and inclosing half an acre of ground, in an oval form. One of them, the largest, is all that now remains, as some suppose, of a Druidical temple, the rest having been removed for the cultivation of the soil. This has obtained the name of the Lochmaben Stone; it measures 8 feet in height and 21 in circumference, and must have been brought from a considerable distance. Its appearance resembles granite, but, with the exception of a very hard incrustation where it is exposed to the external air, it is of a much softer and gravelly composition. Alliances between the two kingdoms are said to have been formed in ancient days within the limits of this temple.

*Eminent Men.*—Mr Galt, who was minister of Graitney for sixty years, seems to have been a man of primitive piety and simplicity of manners, and his memory is still delightfully cherished by the aged inhabitants. He was also a man of superior classical attainments, as certain manuscripts, particularly the book of Job in Latin verse, and a diary, minutely kept, in prose, now in the hands of the Misses Gibson, Edinburgh, amply testify.

*Parochial Registers.*—The *parochial registers* of baptisms, marriages, and transactions of the kirk-session, among which last are interspersed many remarkable occurrences, such as the advance and retreat of a division of the rebels in 1745, stories, and tales of wonder, are extremely accurately written by Mr Galt, and are pretty voluminous. They commence in 1730, and continue for sixty years, after which there is an almost entire deficiency in the minutes of session.

### III.—POPULATION.

Since the year 1755, when Dr Webster made a census, the population has been nearly doubled; and since the period of last Statistical Account it has exactly 99 of an increase. It now amounts to 1909. The increase is chiefly to be attributed to the encouragement given to manufacturers during the late war, and the facility afforded to the building of cottages by landholders, particularly by Sir John Heron Maxwell in the village of Springfield, which, though commenced only in 1791, contains now about 500 inhabitants, almost entirely cotton-weavers.

Number of people in the country,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1009
villages,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	900
Average of births for the last seven years,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60

Number of families in the parish,	-	-	-	360
of families chiefly employed in agriculture,	-	-	-	141
chiefly employed in trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	-	-	-	112
other families,	-	-	-	107

There are no resident nobility in the parish, but several very extensive farmers. Of these one pays L. 1000 per annum, and many about L. 500.

A curious mode of killing salmon once was practised by the inhabitants of this parish. Bands of horsemen, armed with long spears, assailed the finny race. One man in particular, called Graham, arrived at such an amazing degree of dexterity in the sport, as to be able at full gallop to transfix the prey, and call forth the wonder of his associates. Sir Walter Scott in his tale of Redgauntlet has recorded such a scene.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

Land cultivated or occasionally in tillage,	-	-	-	10,000 imp. acres.
Never cultivated, about	-	-	-	300
Capable of being cultivated with profit,	-	-	-	100
Under wood, whether natural or planted with fir, ash, or oak trees,	-	-	-	60

*Rent of Land.*—Average rent per acre 21s. The real rent of the parish is L. 9000. The usual rate of grazing is L. 3, 10s. per ox or cow, and 15s. per ewe for the year.

*Rate of Wages.*—Men-servants' wages half-yearly, L. 6, 6s.; maid do. L. 2, 15s.; day labourers, 1s. 6d.; masons, 3s.; joiners, 2s. 6d.

*Prices.*—Wheat sells at the average rate of 7s. 6d. per imperial bushel; barley, 4s.; oats, 3s.; meal, 1s. 10d. per imperial stone; beef, 5d. per lb.; mutton, 5d.; pork, 4½d.; butter, 10d.; cheese, 5d.

*Husbandry and Produce.*—A rotation of five years, viz. oats, green crop or fallow, wheat or barley, grass and pasture, is the commonly adopted method of husbandry. The general duration of leases is fifteen years,—a term which seems very favourable both for tenants and proprietors.

During the late war very considerable alterations took place in regard to the size of the farms and the state of enclosures. Where 100 farmers occupied land, not more, now, than half the number fill their places; by which means certainly, the general aspect and fertility of the district have been much improved; but the system has had the necessary effects of forcing many families into cottages, to seek employment in manufactures, or to find their usual occupations in a foreign land.

*Produce.*—The average gross amount and value of raw produce, raised yearly in the parish, is nearly as follows:



Wheat,	-	350 acres.		L. 3600	0	0
Barley,	-	600	-	4200	0	0
Oats	-	3000	-	15000	0	0
Potatoes and turnips,	-	600	-	4000	0	0
Hay,	-	300	-	1800	0	0
Flax, &c.	-	10	-	100	0	0
Pasture,	-	3000	-	9000	0	0
Gardens, &c.	-	20	-	300	0	0
Plantations,	-	60	-	250	0	0
Fisheries,	-	-	-	250	0	0
	Acres,	7940	-	L. 38500	0	0
Horses,	-	400	-	4800	0	0
Cows,	-	400	-	2800	0	0
Young cattle,	-	600	-	1800	0	0
Sheep,	-	100	-	100	0	0
Swine,	-	1000	-	2000	0	0
			Total,	L. 50000	0	0

*Manufactures.*—The manufacturers in this parish are chiefly cotton weavers employed by Messrs Dickson and Fergusson of Carlisle. The yarn is brought regularly every fortnight, and distributed to about 120 families, or 600 persons, men, women, and children, who all work at the looms, six days a-week and twelve or fourteen hours each day; by which they usually are able to earn 7s. or 8s. per week, instead of their former high wages of L. 1, 10s. By diligent labour and punctual payments, they are thus barely able to support their families by a mode of subsistence which appears to have a tendency to weaken the body, to depress the mental powers, and engender a spirit of improvidence and disaffection.

*Navigation.*—Vessels of 100 tons burden arrive at various places along the coast from the pits in Cumberland, and discharge coals to the yearly amount of 600 tons, together with an equal quantity of slate; and grain and potatoes are exported to a very large amount, chiefly to Liverpool and the other places on the coast of Lancashire.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

In the village of Gretna, which was a burgh of barony, there formerly was a cattle-market, and it is not many years since the market-cross was thrown down. Annan is the nearest of the Scotch towns to this parish. Carlisle, nine miles distant, is an excellent market for grain, and for produce of all kinds, and much resorted to weekly by the inhabitants, especially of the eastern part. There are

four villages in the parish of considerable magnitude, Springfield, Gretna, Rigg and Browhouses.

*Means of Communication.*—The highways between Glasgow and Carlisle, and between the latter place and Portpatrick, run through the parish, the latter intersecting its whole length. The old road to Carlisle, which is still the nearest to Longtown, Brampton, and Newcastle, crosses the Glasgow road at the village of Gretna, where there is a post-office, which, however, is connected only with Carlisle. This renders correspondence from Scotland more expensive and tedious than it ought to be. The roads, both public and parochial, are kept in the best order. There are three bridges, one over the Kirtle, and two over the Sark, which were recently and very substantially built. There are no regular harbours, though vessels of 120 tons arrive occasionally at Sarkfoot, Port-Stormont, Redkirk point, and 'Browhouses, for the purposes of exporting grain and potatoes to the coast of Lancashire, and of importing slate and coals from the coast of Cumberland.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church having been continued at Graitney when the parish of Red-Kirk was united to it, is thus rather inconveniently situated for the parishioners in the west, who are five miles distant. It was built in 1790, has excellent walls, roof, seats, and galleries, but still requires flooring of wood or stone and an enclosure. It affords accommodation for 1000 sitters, and, as in other country parishes, the accommodation is free. The manse was built 126 years ago, and underwent some repairs when the church was built. It has lately undergone a thorough repair, and been enlarged by an addition of two excellent rooms. The glebe consists of 13 Scotch acres; amounting in value to nearly L. 18 per annum. The stipend is 16 chalders, one-half barley, the other meal, payable at the rate of the county fiars, and varies from L. 200 to L. 300 a-year.

There is one meeting-house erected at Rigg by members of the Associate Synod.

The people are not very remarkable for their regular attendance at church; on an average there are 400 communicants. The church collections amount to L. 30 a-year, and L. 15 more may be received for other religious and charitable objects.

*Education.*—There are two schools with equal salaries of L. 25 attached to them,—both commodiously situated. A new school and dwelling-house for the schoolmaster has been lately erected at Gretna village, and may be regarded as a pledge of the future li-

berality of the heritors. There is much need of the extension of a similar favour to the western district of the parish. There are also three private seminaries, the teachers of which are solely dependent upon the number of their scholars; altogether, 250 children may be taught in these schools. There is also a Sabbath school, attended by about 140 scholars, which is maintained chiefly by donations from the heritors. The Earl of Mansfield, the patron of the parish, contributes L. 5 a-year, and the other heritors an equal sum to this institution, which is generally allowed to have been productive of the happiest effects, in the moral and religious improvement of the rising generation.

*Charitable Institutions, &c.*—There is a friendly society in this parish, the object of which is to provide for the support of those who, by sickness or old age, are rendered incapable of earning a livelihood. It was instituted nearly fifty years ago, and is chiefly composed of labourers and mechanics, though others encourage it by their contributions. Each member contributes a small sum quarterly, which has gradually accumulated to a very large amount.

*Poor.*—The poor are maintained by church collections and the voluntary contributions of the heritors, who meet with the minister every half year to inspect the roll. The average number of those who receive parochial relief is 30. They are of two classes, which contain nearly equal numbers; the occasional poor, who are supplied from the church funds quarterly; and the regular paupers, maintained chiefly by the contributions of the heritors, which are strictly regulated according to the respective valuations of their estates. The average sum of L. 80 per annum is thus conferred, but it varies according to the number and necessities of the applicants for relief. The generality of the people regard such means of support as no degradation, and feel much inclined to force the heritors to a legal assessment, which can only be prevented by the firmness of the kirk-session, the unity of the heritors, and by their regularity in meeting and contributing according to the real wants of the poor. These feelings on the part of the people are mainly to be attributed to the practice of our English neighbours, whose standard of independence has been sadly lowered by the operation, or rather by the abuse, of poor rates.

*Inns.*—Four of the inns in this parish may justly be regarded as useful for the refreshment of travellers passing through the parish; in particular, that of Gretna-hall, which is the largest and most commodious, and where post horses, chaises, and every other

accommodation may be had. But there are twelve or thirteen other houses licensed to sell ale and spirits, which have a manifest tendency to demoralize the people.

*Fuel.*—Peat from the Solway moss, or the borders of Kirkpatrick-Fleming, is commonly used as fuel; though coal is also obtained in considerable abundance from the coast of Cumberland, and from the neighbourhood of Brampton and Canobie. Peat costs 1s. 6d. per cart load; coal, when brought from a distance by sea, costs 8s. per cart load, and when conveyed by land about 2s. less. A rail-road between Annan and Brampton, or between the former town and Carlisle, would be of great service to the whole neighbourhood, and a more level tract for that purpose cannot perhaps be found in the kingdom.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The most remarkable variations between the present state of this parish and that which existed at the date of the late Statistical Account are, an increase of population to the number of 99; an immense enlargement of the farms, whose value has been more than doubled; a great increase in manufactures; a diminution of houses in country places, and a rapid extension of villages; a departure from a pretty general spirit of resistance to the revenue laws, and the signs of a growing amelioration in religion and morality. Till within these last four years cock-fights were very common, with all their vile accompaniments, and more particularly at the village of Rigg. Thirty years ago, the contraband trade with the Isle of Man, with all its terrific results, prevailed. But if smuggling now exists at all, it is chiefly to be attributed to the wretched system which establishes an inequality of excise duties betwixt the different parts of the same kingdom.

Instead of one school with a salary of L. 20, there are two having each a salary of L. 25 a year, besides the usual wages, which may amount to an equal sum, payable by the scholars. Prices of labour and raw produce of every description have undergone a proportionable alteration.

For the improvement of the parish in a commercial and agricultural point of view, the formation of a rail-road to join that between Carlisle and Newcastle, and the award of prizes to the best managers of farms, and to those who pay greatest attention to the breed of cattle, may be suggested. For the general welfare of its inhabitants in a moral and religious state, the diminution of licensed tippling-houses, and the abolition of irregular marriages, may be

strongly urged. The far-famed marriages of Gretna Green are celebrated, it is said, to the number of three or four hundred annually. The parties are chiefly from the sister kingdom, and from the lowest ranks of her population. The existence of the law by which the practice has been generated is certainly a reproach to our country, whether marriage be viewed as a civil or as a sacred contract. It dispenses with that solemnity which is required for the ordinance in Scripture; and it presents opportunities for bigamy and abduction. Parties have been known to betake themselves hither, from the north of Scotland itself, to celebrate a marriage which, a few lines written by a magistrate, a lawyer, a shoemaker, or a sexton, and signed by two witnesses at home, might have effected equally well, according to the present law of Scotland. Scarcely one instance in two years occurs of a couple belonging to the parish being thus unlawfully united; and, when cases of the kind did occur a few years ago, the parties generally went to a neighbouring justice of the peace. Great numbers resort to these altars of Baal, whose priests are numerous in this district and others, more particularly about Annan and Coldstream. Their number, indeed, has sadly injured the trade, for the fees are now only half-a-crown a-pair. One of these functionaries, who breaks stones daily on the verge of England, has the best chance of succeeding, for he accosts every party as they pass, and tries to strike the best bargain. Tippling-houses have each their rival priest, some of whom satisfy the parties by merely giving lines signed by witnesses, and others by jabbering over a portion of the service of the church of England.

Wherever such irregularities are practised, they are calculated to bring *all* law and *all* religion into contempt and ridicule. The evil can only be remedied by an amendment of the law; making proclamation of banns necessary to a valid marriage throughout the united kingdom; and surely, were the General Assembly of our church to send up a petition to Parliament on this subject, such pernicious practices would be prohibited by legislative enactment.

*Revised March 1834.*

# PARISH OF KIRKPATRICK-FLEMING.

PRESBYTERY OF ANNAN, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.

THE REV. ALEXANDER MONILAWS, MINISTER.\*

## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name, Boundaries, &c.*—THE parish of Kirkpatrick-Fleming includes the old parishes of Kirkpatrick and Kirkconnel, which were united after the Reformation. It evidently derives its name from St Patrick, who was claimed by Scotchmen as their countryman, but honoured by Irishmen as their tutelary saint. The name of the lord of the manor, Fleming, during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, was added to the name of the present parish, to distinguish it from others of the same name. It extends from north to south about six miles, by a general breadth of three miles, and therefore contains eighteen square miles. Its figure, which is extremely irregular, especially towards the west and south corners, may be said to resemble a parallelogram, or a rhomboid. The parish is bounded on the east and north-east by Halfmorton, on the south-east and south by Graitney, on the west and south-west by Annan and Dornock, and on the north and north-west by Middlebie.

*Topographical Appearances.*—Its surface, which rises gradually from south to north to a moderate height above the level of the Solway, is diversified with a pleasing variety of waving elevations and fertile vales; and adorned by many a well cultivated field, surrounded and sheltered either by fine hedge-rows or thriving plantations. Three divisions, running from the north-west and south-west in an easterly direction, are distinctly marked. The south division is separated from the middle one by the romantic vale of the Kirtle; and the middle division is separated from the northern one by a vale, which commences at Burnfoot, near Springkell, and runs along the banks of Logan-burn. In these divisions, there are some points of view looking west, south, and east, which afford most extensive and beautiful prospects.

\* This Account has been drawn up by the Rev. Thomas Landells.

*Meteorology.*—The temperature of the atmosphere in general, and in some particular seasons, is remarkably mild. The thermometer ranges from about 28° in winter to 76° in summer on Fahrenheit's scale. In different seasons, it has been found to stand above 80°. The rains which prevail most, are towards the beginning of August and the end of September; they are well known by the names of the Lammas and equinoctial rains. Frequent and strong gusts of wind, accompanied with heavy rains from the west and south, are often experienced. In the winter months, too, continued and heavy rains frequently fall. But the rain which falls in this quarter is vastly different from the cold rains and hoar-fogs to which the eastern coasts are exposed. The winds that prevail in summer and harvest are from the west and south, and in winter and spring from the east and north. It has long been observed here, that when the heavy and extensive clouds, which sometimes rest upon the summit of Skiddaw, to the south of this parish, are borne on the wind, and carried northwards; and when the clouds, which often encircle the top of Criffel, which lies westward in East Galloway, are driven towards the land, rain soon follows. Hence the old rhyme,

When the mist takes the sea  
Fair weather it will be;  
But when the mist takes the land  
We expect rain off the sand.

Snow, of which there are seldom heavy falls, does not lie long. Though the climate is variable and uncertain, yet it cannot justly be said to be unpropitious either to plants or animals. Many persons are grievously afflicted with rheumatism in the spring, and towards the end of autumn. But as the country around this is level and open, and rarely infested with fogs, the air, upon the whole, is pure; and as it lies at a short distance from the Solway Frith, a considerable portion of it is low and warm. The farmers generally begin to sow about the middle of March, and to reap towards the middle of August. Epidemic diseases and malignant fevers seldom make their appearance.

*Hydrography.*—This parish is abundantly supplied with perennial springs of the purest water, which is generally of a soft quality. These springs flow from sandstone, in some places of a dark red, in other places of a gray colour, and occasionally from limestone; or they issue from gravel-beds or fissured rocks. About a quarter of a mile from the mansion-house of Springkell, there is a very re-

markable spring, which Mr Pennant, in 1772, said was the largest that he had ever seen, except the famous spring at Holywell, in Flintshire. Near the Gair farmstead, which is built on a ridge considerably elevated above the level of Springkell House, and near to limestone rock, several streams which issue from springs are observed to sink into the ground, and entirely disappear from the view. It is generally believed that these streams, during their passage through subterraneous fissures, become united, and burst violently out in one large stream in the present garden of Springkell. There are four mineral springs in this parish, of which three are nearly of the same nature and qualities. The first, distinguished by the name of the Branteth Well, is situated in the north-east part of the parish, in a moss of considerable extent. Its waters having at different times been subjected to a chemical analysis, were found to be strongly impregnated with sulphur. Its smell is most offensive, and its taste disagreeable. It is used with great success in scrofulous and scorbutic cases. The late Sir Humphry Davy stated some years ago that it was very similar to the Moffat Well. The other three mineral springs are all of the chalybeate kind, and do not differ materially from each other.

The Highmoor Well, in all probability impregnated with a substance not possessed by the others, has often been used with advantage in bilious and other stomachic complaints. The second of this kind, distinguished by the name of Charley's Well, upon the farm of Goukhal; and the third by that of Wyesbie-hill Well,—are exactly of the same nature and qualities, and are said to possess all the power and medicinal virtues of the famous Hartfell Spa near Moffat. \*

Kirtle is the only river in this parish. It has its source in a valley, which is formed by Winterhope-hill on the one side, and the farm of Kirtlehead on the other, in the parish of Middlebie; and running towards the north corner of Kirpatrick-Fleming, divides the two parishes for a space of more than four miles, and, then crossing the parish in a south-east direction, falls into the Solway to the east of Redkirk, in Graitney. Its length is about 18 miles; its breadth at a medium, where it divides this parish from Middlebie, above 23, and after that 30 feet. In it there are trouts, eels, and perch.

In the south of Scotland it would be difficult to find another river of equal size to the Kirtle, which has its banks more richly

\* See Account of Moffat.



covered with natural wood, or more highly ornamented with plantations, gentlemen's family seats, and ancient towers.

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—This part of the country is of secondary formation. “It consists of dark-red, brown, yellow, and, in some places, of gray or white sandstone, in some parts dipping to the south, and in other parts to the west, disposed in thick strata, and frequently containing vegetable impressions. A great quantity of limestone, dipping to the west, ranges through this district from east to west. It is covered by, and alternates with, sandstone, and contains a variety of shells.” In the limestone quarries of Caldronlee, casts of bivalve shells and other organic remains of various forms are often found. Some of these strongly resemble the shape of a ram's horn. The cover of the rocks is almost always of the old alluvial kind, composed of clay, sand, and small water-worn stones, with angular pieces of the red sandstone, upon which it generally rests. Its common colour is red, or inclining to red. In this parish there are some flow-mosses of considerable depth and extent. Out of these mosses many large trunks of trees, chiefly oaks, have repeatedly been dug.

The soil in the under part of the parish being underlaid with rock, with gravel, or with sand, is generally light and kindly. In many parts it consists of a strong red earth, with a large mixture of sand, to a considerable depth. When this lies upon a gravelly bottom, as is generally the case along the side of the river, it is reckoned land of the first quality. A soil nearly the same, but more shallow, is frequently to be met with upon a bottom inclining to clay and gravel. The same kind of earth, with a very small mixture of sand, frequently makes its appearance upon a strong brick-clay bottom, exceedingly cold, and almost impenetrable by water. Nearly two-thirds of the land of this parish consist of moss, varying in depth from six to eighteen inches, resting upon a bed of clay. As a subsoil, clay is found below the green sward of ridges, and under peat-mosses, and soft bogs, and is generally either white, blue, or red.

There is also found a small portion of whitestone land, which is well-known in this district as a soil naturally barren, though capable of improvement in various degrees.

Many trials have been made near Springkell to discover coal, but they have hitherto proved unsuccessful. Mr Robert Bald, mining-engineer, Edinburgh, in a report which he gave in 1829, regarding the minerals on the estate of Springkell, observes towards

the end of it, "I cannot take upon me to say that no workable coal will be found on the Springkell estate, next to Chapel-hill, but, from my experience, and comparing the strata at Springkell with those of the coal districts of Scotland, I have little or no hope of a workable coal being found there."

*Trees.*—The soil, particularly along the banks of the river, is congenial to oak, ash, plane, beech, elm, alder, birch, to Scots fir, larches, and various species of ornamental trees. Near the mansion-house of Springkell, there are different trees above 150 years of age, which measure from 9 to 11 feet in circumference, taken at 3 feet from the ground. At Wyesbie-house, there are three aged and wide-spreading oaks, which measure about 10 feet in circumference. In a holm, too, near Mossknow-house, there are two ornamental ashes, and an aged beech, which are 10 or 11 feet in circumference.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Land-owners.*—Sir Patrick Maxwell, Bart., and Colonel Graham are the chief land-owners; who, along with the other heritors, give, by their example and countenance, great encouragement to their tenants to persevere in improving their farms.

*Parochial Registers.*—The parochial register of marriages commences in 1709; and that of baptisms in 1718. These registers, though not voluminous, appear to have been regularly kept.

*Historical Events and Antiquities.*—In former times this parish, rich in feudal associations, was undoubtedly the scene of bloody contests and cruel rapine. In feudal times, various causes of jealousy and discord subsisted among the chiefs of clans, and gave rise to as many wars. During these endless contests, the country seems to have been filled with castles and places of strength, erected for the security of the inhabitants, not, in general, against foreign forces, but against internal hostilities. The square towers, which were built near the frontier of England, were chiefly used by their possessors, in all probability, as places of security against the formidable inroads, and fierce attacks of the English. In this neighbourhood the towers were generally of a square form, and three stories high. The roof was covered with square flags; with a gentle tapering towards the top, and surrounded by battlements and parapets. The old tower of Woodhouse, having been unroofed and greatly rent for many a year, is now in a most ruinous condition. About three years ago, its south side fell down, during a

stormy night, with a dreadful crash. \* Within a space of four miles round this tower, there are no fewer than seven of the same kind. The family of Flemings, who appear to have been more distinguished for their gallant defence of their native country, and nobly repelling a foreign foe, than for that predatory manner of life, which, in these times, was styled the "spirit and joy of the borders," in the thirteenth and beginning of the fourteenth centuries, possessed certain lands in this parish, by the tenure of defending them at all times against their southern neighbours. At a place called Redhall, on the left bank of the Kirtle, stood the baronial mansion of the "bold Flemings." Towards the conclusion of Baliol's reign, in one of Edward's incursions into Scotland, the tower of Redhall was attacked by an English army. It was at that time occupied by no more than thirty Flemings, who, in spite of every attempt, held out against a close siege of three days. Having nobly defended it to the last extremity, they all chose, rather than submit, to expire in the flames which had been kindled by their foes. Not the smallest trace of this tower, which was entirely demolished in the beginning of the last century, now remains. †

Within the burial ground of Kirkconnel a part of the old church, which is said to have derived its name from Connell, a Scotch saint, who flourished about the commencement of the seventh century, is still standing. The church-yard is situated in a rich holm of very considerable extent. Here is the scene of the impassioned and pathetic tale of "fair Helen of Kirkconnel-Lee," which has been so often told both in prose and verse. ‡

About seventy years ago, a man who was casting peats near Cove, found a piece of gold, about eighteen inches under ground, worth about L. 12. On one end of it was plainly seen the word *Helenus*, in raised Roman capitals, evidently effected by a stamp, and on the other end, in pricked or dotted characters, were observed the letters M. B. Some gave it as their opinion, that it

\* This is reported to have been the first house in Scotland to which Robert Bruce repaired, when he was flying from Longshanks. Bruce, at his departure thence, having taken along with him one of the sons of Irving, the gentleman by whom the house was then possessed, first made the youth his secretary, next created him a knight, and lastly, made him a present of the lands of the forest of Drum, as a reward for his fidelity and services.

† For a further account of the antiquities of this parish, particularly the cross of Merkland, and Dunsallie grotto, see MS. preserved among the Archives of the Church.

‡ See Account of Middlebie.

had been used as an ornament for the wrist, while others thought that it had been used as a fibula for fastening a garment.

*Modern Buildings.*—In the north-west part of the parish stands the mansion-house of Springkell, which was erected in 1784, in the Grecian style of architecture, about 200 or 300 yards to the eastward of the place where the old family residence and village of Kirkconnel stood. The present mansion-house, the seat of Sir Patrick Maxwell, Bart. was greatly enlarged about sixteen years ago, by the addition of a handsome wing to the east, and a corresponding one to the west end. The building is remarkably elegant, and the surrounding grounds are tastefully laid out.—A mile distant from Springkell, on the right bank of the Kirtle, is the tower of Blackethouse in Middlebie, formerly possessed by a family of the name of Bell.—About half a mile below this, on the left bank, is situated the house of Alderbeck, which now belongs to the proprietor of Springkell, and is occupied by a most respectable and enterprising tenant. Langshaw, the seat of John Barker, Esq. is situated about a mile from this, on the same side of the river, and is a neat and commodious house.—About half a mile from Langshaw, Wyesbie, the residence of Mrs Mair, is delightfully situated on the same side of the river.—At a short distance from Wyesbie stands the ancient family seat of the Irvings of Bonshaw, on the right side of the river in the parish of Annan. The old mansion-house is built near the edge of a steep rock, which rises to a considerable height above the bed of the Kirtle.—On the same side of the river, Robgill-tower, belonging to James Smail, Esq., and formerly possessed by the late Sir Emilius Irving, Bart., is situated about half a mile from Bonshaw, on the northern confine of the parish of Dornock. The scenery around Robgillhouse, of which the old tower forms a part, is most picturesque and beautiful.—Cove, the romantic seat of Francis Irving, Esq., built in 1724, Broatshouse, the residence of William Batty, Esq. lying about two miles south-west of Cove; and Newtonhouse, the residence of Matthew Rea, Esq. standing about a quarter of a mile eastward of Cove,—are substantial and comfortable buildings. At a short distance from the church is Mossknow, the mansion-house of Colonel Graham. The situation of the house, which is a handsome modern building, is enriched by fine plantations, and an excellent garden. An extensive and fertile holm, intersected by the Kirtle, and beautified by straggling trees of considerable size, opens to the south.

For many years past, the houses here have regularly been built of stone and lime, and covered with slate; and the clay-houses, once numerous, have almost all been pulled down, except towards the east and south ends of the parish; and more modern and commodious dwellings erected in their place.

### III.—POPULATION.

According to the census by Dr Webster in 1755, the population was	1147
last Statistical Account, 1792,	1542
census of 1821,	1696
1831,	1666

From 1821 there has been a decrease of thirty. Since the census was taken in 1821, a number of families in the north part of the parish left their farms, which were afterwards let annually as pasture; and emigrated to other parishes or to America. This, in a great measure, may be assigned as the cause of the decrease.

1. Number of families in the parish,	304
of families chiefly employed in agriculture,	149
chiefly employed in trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	78
2. Number of unmarried men, bachelors or widowers, upwards of 50 years of age,	17
of unmarried women, including widows, upwards of 45,	55
3. The average number of births yearly, for the last 7 years,	45
of deaths,	30
of marriages,	15
4. The number of persons at present under 15 years of age.	666
upwards of 70,	71

The number of proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards, is 12.

*Habits and Character of the People.*—The habits of the people are in general cleanly, and their dress is of late years greatly improved. Gray plaids are frequently worn instead of great-coats. The ordinary food of the farm-servants at their meals is oatmeal porridge for breakfast, butcher-meat, with potatoes and bread, for dinner, and porridge for supper. The food of mechanics is nearly the same. The cottagers commonly make use of tea or coffee for breakfast and supper, but seldom have it in their power to purchase butcher-meat for dinner. Though farmers and mechanics, manufacturers, and agricultural labourers have various difficulties with which to struggle, yet they appear, upon the whole, to be tolerably contented with their situation and circumstances in life. The inhabitants of this parish are, with few exceptions, possessed of a good deal of penetration, and a great fund of common sense, and are well acquainted with the principles of that religion which they profess. The farmers are a respectable class of men,—industrious

in their calling,—just in their dealings,—and obliging in their manners. The people in general are sober, pious, and regular in their attendance upon public worship. They are kind and hospitable to strangers, and ever ready to relieve the distressed.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

##### *Agriculture and Rural Economy.*—

The total number of imperial acres in the parish is	- - - - -	11,575
Acres in the parish cultivated, or occasionally in tillage,	- - - - -	8,061
In rough pasture,	- - - - -	2,009
Flow-moss,	- - - - -	900
About 400 acres of that moss, by proper drainage and surface-culture, might be converted into meadow or pasture-ground.		
Capable of being cultivated with a profitable application of capital,	- - - - -	1,400
Under wood,	- - - - -	605

The trees which are planted or indigenous are chiefly Scots firs, larches, beeches, birch, alder, oak, and ash. The general management of the wood is such as reflects very great credit on the judgment and taste of the several proprietors.

*Rent of Land.*—The average rent of the arable land per acre is 18s. 3d.; of grazing, for cow or ox, at the rate of L. 3; full-grown sheep, 10s.

*Rate of Wages.*—Labourers have commonly 1s. a-day in summer, and 9d. in winter, with victuals; or 1s. 6d. and 1s. 3d. without victuals. Masons receive 3s. and carpenters 2s. 6d. per day without victuals.

*Husbandry.*—The common mode of rotation is six years. But it is neither rigidly enforced by the land-owner, nor strictly adhered to by the tenant. The manures which are principally used for meliorating the soil and raising crops are lime and dung collected upon the different farms. Lime can be conveniently carted from Donkins and Blacketrigg, in Middlebie, and from Caldronlee, near Springkell, in this parish, at 1s. 2d. per Carlisle bushel, which contains a little less than three Winchester bushels. The crops to which most attention is paid in the greater part of this parish, and which, indeed, most liberally reward the labours of the husbandman, are barley, oats, and potatoes. Barley may be considered, in a great measure, as an article for the market. Wheat, of which there is not much sown, generally answers well, as it is never sown but when the land is in high cultivation. Turnips are here a precarious crop, except on the best land. A crop of potatoes, even in common years, is the most valuable that is raised. An immense number of swine is annually fed in this quarter.

“ By means of draining, many acres of unproductive morass and wet land have been brought into a state of luxuriant fertility. By its proper application, land, which before the art was introduced was considered valuable, has been rendered doubly so ; and by draining alone our climate has been greatly ameliorated.” Though a great deal has been done in this neighbourhood by proprietors and tenants for the improvement of land, by removing surface and under water by means of open, covered, and tile drains, yet much still remains to be done. Leases of fifteen years are generally given on improved farms ; but when a farm has to be enclosed and drained, a lease of twenty-one years is considered sufficiently short. The rents of a small number of farms here are from L. 440 to L. 200 ; of a great number from L. 200 to L. 50 ; and of some from L. 50 downwards. The farmers are in general accommodated with comfortable houses and convenient offices.

The improvement of moss by a covering of clay was introduced into this quarter, and tried with excellent effect about twenty-eight years ago, by William Blacklock, who was then farmer of Howgillside, upon the estate of Springkell. “ After the land has been ploughed into ridges of 14 or 18 feet wide, labourers with spades widen and deepen the furrows from 15 to 18 inches, and throw the substratum of clay upon the ridges. The moss is thus pressed down, and its depth diminished. This is repeated next season, and gives new soil for a second crop, equal to, if not better than the first. Lime is applied in different quantities, according to the nature of the soil. On clay lands, from 50 to 60 Carlisle bushels of shells (nearly 3 Winchester each) are *floured* and spread ; and for moss, from 20 to 30 are found to be sufficient as one dose, which must be repeated every rotation of seven or eight years. Where moss is from 18 inches to 2 feet deep, it is first ploughed very thin, and laid over quite flat. It is allowed to lie in that position till the plants rot a good deal, and limed upon the face. It is again ploughed a little deeper in the same furrows, and sown with oats. After the crop is removed, it is ploughed a third time, and clayed as above for the second crop, and the same operation is repeated for a third crop, amongst which grass seeds are sown. The expenses of each claying are found to be about L. 1, 5s. per acre, by which, and the ploughings, the moss loses fully one-third of its depth, and the surface becomes firm for the feet of cattle.”\*

*Quarries.*—In the immediate vicinity of Springkell there is a

\* Letter from Mr Easton, who was some time ago factor at Springkell, to Dr Singer.

great quantity of excellent lime-rock. Caldronlee-quarry is trough-shaped, and its line of bearing is westerly, *i. e.* the longitudinal line of trough,—and the strata rise very suddenly both to the north and south. It is in beds; and its thickness is about 30 feet. It rests upon slate-clay of a grayish colour, and the up-filling of the trough is of the same kind of slate-clay, conforming with the dip and rise, or trough of the lime-rock. The *terrage* or cover is thick, particularly in the centre of the trough. Here are four good draw-kilns. The coals for burning the lime are brought either from Canobie, nine miles distant, or by sea from the collieries of Cumberland to Annan, whence they are carted eight miles to the kilns. The price of a Winchester bushel of shells is about 4½d.

Near Blacketrigg, which is on the border of Middlebie parish, and about one mile distant from Springkell, is a marble quarry, from which large blocks have been raised for marble works. In Springkell House there are several mantel-pieces and tables of this marble. The colour is gray, tinged and clouded with red. As it is susceptible of a high polish, it is pleasing to the eye, and very suitable for mantel-pieces and pavement for saloons. This marble rock is overlaid by the common sandstone, as it appears at the farm-stead of Blacketrigg.

In this parish there is a great abundance of freestone, very different both in quality and colour. In the north part of the parish, near to the farm-building of Blackcleugh, the rock is quartz sandstone, with beds of soft red marly rock, both of a deep red colour. The dip is westerly, with a declination of at least one in two. The rock of Snabb-quarry, situated near the north boundary of the estate of Springkell, is a good quartz sandstone of a whitish colour, and has very little cover of earth. The dip is to the eastward of north.

The quarry of Craigshaws consists of sandstone of a white colour, occasionally mixed with yellow. Its dip is moderate, about one in five westerly. There are only about four feet of peat-earth above it. The quarry of Branteth consists of rock of nearly the same colour, having a westerly dip. At Sarkshields there is a quarry of the hard chocolate-coloured sandstone, which is wrought for the roads in that neighbourhood. The dip is to the north. Along the banks of the Kirtle, there is in general nothing to be seen but the red coloured sandstone, dipping westerly, with subordinate beds of soft red-coloured marly rock, which gives a deep red colour to the alluvial cover. The best freestone quarries here are to be found upon the estate of Cove. In one of these quarries the rock is red



sandstone, with a subordinate bed of very white sandstone. In another the rock is of a fine gray colour, occasionally mixed with yellow. It dips to the S. S. W., and has a cover of considerable depth. It admits of a fine polish, and is very durable. Within the last twenty years, the principal stones which were used in building the splendid bridge of Carlisle, and also the magnificent mansion of Kinmont, in the parish of Cummertrees, were carted from these quarries. Many ship-loads, too, have at different times been sent to Ireland.

*Produce.*—The average gross amount and value of produce yearly raised in the parish, as far as can be ascertained, is as follows :

2687 imperial acres of grain of all kinds, at L. 4 per acre,	-	-	L. 10748	0	0
1152 acres of potatoes and turnips, &c. at L. 4,	-	-	4608	0	0
1535 acres of hay, whether meadow or cultivated, at L. 3, 10s.	-	-	5372	10	0
Pasture land, at L. 1, 10s. per acre,	-	-	2687	0	0
Rough pasture, at 6s. 7½d.	-	-	2009	0	0
Four gentlemen's gardens,	-	-	150	0	0
Twenty kitchen gardens,	-	-	60	0	0
Woods, &c. 605 acres at 11s. per acre,	-	-	882	15	0
Lime quarries,	-	-	150	0	0
Freestone quarries,	-	-	100	0	0
			L. 26217 5 0		
	Acres imperial.		Average price of each.		
Number of draught horses, 220	-	-	L. 16 0 0		
Cows, - - - 782	2346	at 3 acres each,	-	7	0 0
Young cattle from 1 to 2					
year old, - - 1167	1750½	at 1½ acre,	-	3	10 0
Mares and foals, - 50	300	at 6 acres each, for a mare & foal,	9	0	0
Sheep, - - - 600	300	at ½ an acre each,	-	0	16 0
	4696 total acres of pasture,				
Of swine, - - - 900	-	-	-	3	0 0

The real rent of the parish is L. 7369.

*Manufactures.*—About 150 cotton-weavers, who are employed by Messrs Ferguson and Dickson, Carlisle, are here the only manufacturers. They work six days a-week, and twelve hours per day. Each of them earns about 7s. per week. These individuals, not being crowded together in great numbers, suffer no very material injury either in their health or morals from the line of life which they follow.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Towns, &c.*—Those to which the people of this parish resort are Ecclefechan, in the parish of Hoddam, and Annan, about five miles distant from the centre of this parish; also Carlisle, distant thirteen miles, to which many of the inhabitants go weekly. The post-towns are Ecclefechan and Annan.

*Means of Communication.*—The road from Carlisle to Glasgow, and to Edinburgh by Moffat, runs through the middle division of the parish, five miles in length; and in the western corner, near Langshaw, crosses the road, which runs from Annan to Edinburgh by Langholm and Selkirk, in a northerly direction, four miles in length. A road which was opened up some years ago from Annan to Langholm, by Stapleton, Beltenmont, and Chapelknow, runs from the south-west in an easterly direction, nearly four miles in length. The Glasgow mail passes this every morning from Carlisle to Glasgow, and every afternoon from Glasgow to Carlisle.

Four bridges have been thrown across the Kirtle, and connect this parish with Middlebie on the north-west. There is one also over the Kirtle at Beltenmont, and another over a rivulet at Cleughside, which joins this parish, to Dornock on the south-west, with two on the Glasgow road. All these bridges are in excellent condition.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The situation of the church, though surrounded by the most densely peopled part of the parish, is not convenient for the inhabitants of the northern division, which is distant from it about five miles. It was partly rebuilt fifty-six years ago, and then put into a state of complete repair. But at present its interior part is in such a miserable condition as again to require a thorough repair. By a decided majority of the heritors, it is thought that a new church should immediately be built. The sittings are all free, and can accommodate about 600 individuals. The manse and offices have been greatly improved within the last twenty years; and the glebe, which consists of  $6\frac{1}{2}$  imperial acres of superior, and  $17\frac{1}{2}$  of inferior land, is worth L. 20 a-year. As the teinds are exhausted, the present incumbent agreed some years ago to receive from the heritors a fixed sum of L. 210 yearly. There is no chapel of any kind here. The number of families attending the Established church is 290, and of persons of all ages, 1595. Thirteen families, or 71 persons of all ages, attend dissenting chapels. Of that number, those who are of the Relief persuasion attend a chapel at Waterbeck, in Middlebie; and those who belong to the United Secession church attend either a chapel at Ecclefechan, in Hoddam, or one which was lately erected at Rigg, in Graitney. Divine service at the Established church is well attended by both the higher and lower orders. The average number of communicants is 300. The average amount of yearly contributions for religious and charitable purposes is L. 14; of church collections yearly, L. 80.

*Education.*—There are two parochial schools and two Sabbath schools. Kirkpatrick school-house was built fifty-eight years ago, and is kept in good repair. The late Dr Graham, of Mossknow, grand-uncle of its present proprietor, mortified L. 5 a-year to the teacher of this school, for which sum he is bound to educate eight poor children. The branches of instruction generally taught in each of the schools are English, writing, book-keeping, arithmetic, geography, mathematics, Latin, Greek, and French.

The salary of the teacher of Kirkpatrick school is L. 25, 13s. 3½d.; amount of school fees L. 36; amount of other emoluments, L. 12. The salary of the teacher of Gair school, which was built in the north part of the parish about thirty years ago, is L. 25, 13s. 3½d.; amount of school fees L. 23; amount of other emoluments L. 2, 10s. Both the teachers have the legal accommodations.

The expense of education per quarter is, for reading, 2s.; for reading and writing, 2s. 6d.; for arithmetic, English grammar, geography, and writing, 3s. 6d.; higher branches, 5s.

The Sabbath school taught in Kirkpatrick church is attended by 170; and that which is taught in the school-house of Gair is attended by 80 scholars. These schools are supported chiefly by donations from the heritors. A greater number of professional men, and others holding respectable situations of life, has received the elements of a liberal education at Kirkpatrick school, than at almost any other grammar school throughout the whole of this district.

*Libraries.*—A parochial library, and two libraries for the use of those children who attend the Sabbath schools, were here instituted at the commencement of this year.

*Savings Bank.*—A savings bank was established in 1827. The average increase of this bank yearly is L. 45. The amount yearly invested is L. 80;—yearly withdrawn L. 35; and the investments are generally made by farm-servants.

*Poor.*—The poor are maintained by church collections and legal assessments. Of persons who receive parochial aid, the average number is 30, and the average sum allotted to each per year is L. 4, 13s. 4d.

Of contributions arising from church collections, the annual amount is L. 30 0 0  
From legal assessments, - - - - - 110 0 0

L. 140 0 0

The assessment, of which the proprietor pays one-half, and the tenant the other half, tends to increase. The poor being almost always compelled by necessity to seek relief from the heri-

tors and kirk-session, are not apt, therefore, to consider it as degrading to do so.

*Inns.*—In this parish there are four small inns or public-houses, which evidently have a pernicious effect upon the morals of a small portion of the people.

*Fuel.*—Peat is commonly used as fuel; but a considerable quantity of coal, which is carted either from Canobie or Annan, is also here consumed. The price of a cart-load of coals is 10s. 6d.; and of a cart-load of peats, 1s. 4d. Twenty-seven cart-loads of peats are considered sufficient for a cottager's family, which has only one constant fire.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

That unprofitable mode of cultivation which prevailed in this parish forty years ago has, in a great measure, been abandoned, and a more extensive and liberal system of agriculture has been adopted in its stead. Many acres of moor-ground have been turned over with the plough, and rendered tolerably productive, and a considerable portion of flow-moss has been converted into verdant meadow or pasture by drainage and surface-culture. The improvement, which has been made upon the south-west part of the parish, and also upon that which lies to the north of the Glasgow road, and is bounded by the Langholm road on the north-west, is most striking. In 1792, the real rent of the parish was L. 2870, and now it is L. 7369. The houses of proprietors and farmers, of mechanics and cottagers, have been vastly improved within the last thirty years. A great change for the better has also taken place in the language, the dress, and the manner of living, of the inhabitants. As the soil still admits of extensive amelioration, much might be done in accomplishing that end by men possessed of capital, skill, and enterprise. A line of communication from Sarkshields, near Springkell, to Kirkpatrick church, by Gilshaw's flow, is greatly wanted. In all probability that line of road will be formed ere long. Farms here above L. 150 a-year are the bane of the comfort, happiness, and independence of the lower classes. Proprietors and farmers, by supplying labourers with constant employment at all seasons, by giving them a fair remuneration for their industry, and by discountenancing vice wherever it appears, and encouraging piety and virtue, will, unquestionably, promote both the welfare of the lower orders, and the general good.

*February 1834.*

# PARISH OF HODDAM.

PRESBYTERY OF ANNAN, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.

THE REV. JAMES YORSTOUN, MINISTER.\*

## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name, Boundaries, &c.*—THE present parish of Hoddam comprehends the parishes of Hoddam, Luce, and Ecclefechan, which were thrown into one in the year 1609. In the charters of the twelfth century, we find the name spelt *Hodholm* and *Hodolm*, the Anglo-Saxon word for the *head of the holm*. This is very characteristic of the situation of the old parish of Hoddam, which lay along the east bank of the river Annan, at a point where the land is flat and rich, and in every respect a holm. Luce was situated below this, on the opposite side of the river Mein. It is supposed to have derived its name from the luxuriance of its herbage, the British word *lys*, and the Scoto-Irish word *lus* signifying herbs, weeds, &c. Ecclefechan is supposed to have derived its name from the Latin word *ecclesia*, and an Irish abbot called *Fechan*, who is said to have lived in this quarter somewhere about the seventh century. Formerly it used to be spelt *Eglisfechan*; and in a manuscript account of Dumfries-shire (in the Advocates' Library) it is called *Ecclesia Fechanis*. Each of these parishes in former times was furnished with a church, but scarcely any thing but the respective cemeteries now remains. When the three parishes were united, an entirely new church was erected in a central situation. That, however, was taken down about sixteen years ago, and a more substantial structure substituted in its place.

The present parish is bounded on the north by Tundergarth and St. Mungo, on the east by Middlebie, on the south by Annan, and on the west by Cummertrees. Its form is somewhat quadrangular, and its extent is in length about five miles, in breadth about three and a-half, and in square miles eleven and a quarter.

\* This Account has been drawn up by the Rev. W. Wallace Duncan, Assistant Minister.

*Topographical Appearances.*—In point of scenery, it far surpasses most of the neighbouring parishes. Surrounded by gently swelling hills on all sides, it forms an extensive plain, for the most part in the highest state of cultivation, intersected by numerous thriving hedges, and interspersed with clumps of trees.

In the parish itself, there are no hills worthy of mention but that which is called Burnswark, in the north of the plain. This remarkable eminence, 740 feet above the level of the sea, being considerably higher than any other within many miles, commands one of the most beautiful, and, at the same time, one of the most extensive, views in Britain. From its summit, on a clear day, may be seen the Isle of Man, the whole of the northern coast of Cumberland, with its noble range of mountains, part of Westmoreland, of Northumberland, and even sometimes the mountainous part of Yorkshire. The greater portion of this parish is exceedingly well sheltered by the hills of Woodcockair and Repentance, Brownmuir, Clinthill, Burnswark, and some others. The parish may be regarded on the whole as remarkably healthy.

*Hydrography.*—The rivers connected with this parish are the Annan, the Milk, and the Mein. The first of these, in its course along the western boundary of Hoddam, is in general about 100 feet broad, and abounds in pools, some of which are 15 or 16 feet deep. The Milk, which is one of the tributaries of the Annan, washes only a small corner on the north-west of the parish. Its direction is from the north-east, and the extent of its course is about fourteen miles. The Mein, which is scarcely large enough to deserve the name of a *river*, runs directly from the east, and, after a course of five or six miles, joins the Annan nearly at right angles. This stream sometimes changes its channel, and frequently overflows its banks, thus causing considerable annoyance to those through whose farms it directs its course. Embankments are found to be very precarious, owing to the gravelly nature of the soil.

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—The minerals in which this parish chiefly abounds are slate-clay, clay-ironstone, sandstone, limestone, amygdaloid. Of the first of these there occur in the neighbourhood of Ecclefechan several varieties, containing numerous impressions of shells, and sometimes also of ferns. Its general colour is grayish-black and ash-gray, and it is in some instances so compact that the slaty texture is with difficulty to be discerned. Some beds of clay-ironstone, which occur along a stream a little above Ecclefechan, alternate with greenish-gray and reddish-brown coloured

sandstone, and are from three inches to a foot in thickness. Immediately above this, we come to thin beds of clay-ironstone, pearl gray-coloured slate-clay, and grayish-white and reddish-brown sandstone, lying on beds of slate-clay, which alternate with beds of limestone containing numerous petrifications, but chiefly mytilites, chamites, and corallites. Still higher up the stream, we come to beds of limestone from one to two feet thick, alternating with beds of grayish-black coloured slate-clay and of grayish-white coloured sandstone. It may be mentioned particularly that the coal formation is to be distinctly observed in various parts of the parish, but especially towards the north. Several attempts have already been made to obtain coal (a great desideratum here,) but hitherto without success, owing, doubtless, to the want of funds sufficient for carrying on the work. At present some of the speculators are employed in sinking a pit, on one of the banks of the stream already alluded to, about three quarters of a mile above Ecclefechan. They had not gone far down, when they pierced one vein of coal (about an eighth of an inch thick,) and though they have since descended about seventy or eighty feet, without meeting with any more, they are still in great hopes of ultimately arriving at an abundant store of an article, for the supply of which at present the inhabitants of this part of the country \* are so dependent on their English neighbours.

At Barhill (north-west corner of the parish) porphyritic amygdaloid appears reposing on sandstone, which again reposes on greywacke. It continues along the whole of the ridge which runs between this hill and Burnswark, and is to be observed in several places lying on coarse conglomerate and sandstone, which reposes on very much inclined strata of very compact small-grained greywacke. On the west side of Burnswark, at a considerable height, a grayish-coloured sandstone appears, marked with reddish-brown spots, and covered by slate-clay, and on the due north side (higher up the hill) there are to be seen fragments of grayish-white coloured sandstone, but the highest part of this hill is composed entirely of amygdaloid. †

The soil may be classed under three kinds. *First*, the holm land, which lies along the banks of the Annan and Mein, and

\* The great, almost the only, drawback which this parish sustains is the want of coals. The cheapest and best are generally to be procured at Annan, (five miles distant,) but a horse draught of them can rarely be obtained for less than 10s. or 11s.

† See Jameson's Mineralogical Survey of Dumfries-shire.

which consists of a deep rich loam collected by those rivers, and is exceedingly fertile; *Secondly*, the large plain in the body of the parish, which is composed of a light and gravelly soil, and produces very rich crops both of corn and grass; *Thirdly*, the northern division of the parish, where the ground rises from the plain in a gradual and gentle ascent, finely exposed to the south and south-west. The soil here inclines to clay, lies on a cold *till*, and copper rock, and in quality is much inferior to the low lands.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Land-owners.*—The principal of these are, General Sharpe, His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch, Mrs Dirom of Mount Annan, and Alexander Scott, Esq. of Knockhill.

*Parochial Registers.*—There is no register kept of the deaths which take place in this parish, but the births, baptisms, and marriages are regularly recorded, and have been so,—the first two from the year 1814, the last from the year 1746, up to the present date.

*Antiquities.*—Hallguards, a most romantic place on the east bank of the Annan, was the ancient site of the castle of Hod-dam, which is said to have been in former times the seat of one of the Bruces. It was demolished some centuries ago, in compliance with a border treaty. Burnswark and its vicinity abound in most distinct vestiges of Roman works.\*

The only other curiosity connected with this parish worthy of notice, is a stone imbedded in the walls of one of the porches of the church, about four feet and a half in length, and a foot and a half in breadth. This stone appears from the inscription to have been originally used as an altar by the soldiers of the German cohort, whose title it bears. Several medals and coins, and antique pieces of armour, have occasionally been found in different parts of the parish. One very curious gold coin, in particular, was found in the stream that runs through Ecclefechan. It is much

\* See Chalmers' Caledonia. These works, no doubt, have given the name to the hill on and around which they are to be traced. Burnswark was formerly spelt *Birrens-wark*, but of the derivation of the name no satisfactory account has hitherto been given. May it not have come from the Latin word *hiberna*, this being the name by which stations of the kind were distinguished by the Romans? Within a few miles from this spot in Middlebie there is a Roman camp called the *Birrens*, and in various parts of the world remains of the same nature occur bearing names exceedingly like this in the sound, and, without doubt, derived from the same root, whatever that may be.



thicker than a guinea, and bears on it the head and superscription of Alexander the Great.

### III.—POPULATION.

The population of Hoddam in 1755, amounted to 1393

in 1798	-	1198
in 1800	- -	1250
in 1821	- - -	1640
in 1831	- - -	1582

1. Number of families in the parish,	-	-	812
chiefly employed in agriculture,	-	-	71
trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	-	-	108
2. Number of unmarried men, bachelors or widowers, upwards of 50 years of age,	42		
women, including widows, upwards of 45,	53		
3. The average number of births yearly, for the last 7 years,	-	-	36
marriages,	-	-	7
4. The number of persons at present under 15 years of age,	-	-	653
upwards of 70,	-	-	43
5. The number of villagers,	-	-	750
of those who live in the country,	-	-	832

*Habits and Character of the People.*—The people, on the whole, are sober and well-disposed. They enjoy in a more than ordinary degree the comforts and advantages of society, fearing God and honouring the king. The immoral part of the community is wonderfully small, considering the populousness of the village, and the temptations to which they are consequently exposed.

### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture and Rural Economy.*—The soil of this parish (as has been already remarked) is generally very productive, even by nature. It has been well called the garden of Annandale; but besides this it has more of the advantages which *good farming* bestows than most of the parishes in this county. The larger proprietors have lately adopted the system of throwing several small farms into one of great extent and high rental, thus securing men of considerable capital for their tenants, and consequently conducing to the ultimate improvement and increased value of the land. The following table will give a pretty correct view of the agricultural concerns of this parish :

Total number of Scotch acres in the parish,	-	-	5727
The number of acres cultivated,	-	-	5143
uncultivated,*	-	-	584
under wood,	-	-	50

\* Of the uncultivated land, the hill of Burnswark constitutes the greater part, and it is almost entirely used for grazing sheep.

Average produce of grain of all kinds, in imperial bushels,	-	-	42900
Number of acres in potatoes and turnips,	-	-	600
in hay, (meadow and cultivated,)	-	-	750
of land in pasture,	-	-	2947
used for grazing black cattle, at the rate of two acres per cow, or full-grown ox,	-	-	2497
used for grazing sheep, at the rate of one acre per sheep, (with lambs,)	-	-	450

The yearly rental of the parish, in houses as well as land, is about L. 7000.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Markets, &c.*—Once at least every month a market is held in the village of Ecclefechan. But these markets or fairs have not been nearly so well attended ever since the establishment of a weekly market in Annan, which took place about fifteen or twenty years ago. A pork market, which has just been commenced here, and which is to be held every week throughout the winter, promises to thrive exceedingly well. The village is advantageously situated for such a market, as almost every cottager in the neighbourhood keeps a hog or two, which he fattens sometimes to a great size. There is only one regular butcher in Ecclefechan, but he generally manages to afford a sufficient supply to the place. There are 3 joiners, 3 blacksmiths, 4 cobblers, 1 baker, 2 haberdashers, 2 grocers, and 4 innkeepers. But the manufacture of gingham constitutes the principal means of subsistence to the inhabitants of this village.

*Means of Communication.*—In this respect the parish enjoys many advantages. There are carriers from Ecclefechan to almost every place of any importance within a circuit of at least fifty or sixty miles. One goes to Edinburgh regularly once a-fortnight, besides whom there are others who occasionally go. The constant passing and re-passing of the Glasgow and London mail-coach affords great regularity and facility to communication. There is a reading-room in the village, to which every one may resort for the trifling sum of one penny per visit. There is one large beautiful stone bridge over the Annan, two of smaller dimensions over the Mein, besides a considerable number, though of very insignificant dimensions, which span the stream at Ecclefechan, and give a peculiar appearance to the village. Besides the highway, (which, between the point where it enters the parish, and that at which it leaves it, is about three miles long,) there are five cross roads, all of which are almost equal to turnpike. The hedges and fences, too, are well kept in general.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The site of the parish church, though originally well chosen, is now considered inconvenient for the greater part of the population, being upwards of a mile from the village, with very few houses in its neighbourhood. It was built in the year 1817, is furnished with complete stoves, three galleries, and a vestry, above which General Sharpe has a small room for himself and family. It is seated for the comfortable accommodation of about 500 individuals; the seats, however, having been apportioned according to the valuation of the respective properties, none who do not belong to the families of heritors or tenants, (the minister and schoolmaster, with their families, excepted,) have any rightful accommodation in the church, so that not a few are driven to the alternative either of betaking themselves to the dissenting chapel, or staying at home.

The manse, which was repaired in 1795, has since received several important additions made by the minister himself, and is at present, with the offices belonging to it, in excellent condition. The stipend is about L. 250, paid in money, and the value of the three glebes amounts to about L. 30 per annum. The number of families attending the Established church is 272. The average number of communicants about 200. There is one dissenting chapel in the parish, whose congregation is connected with the Burgher association. The minister is paid by seat rents and collections. The stipend of the present incumbent is understood to be L. 110, exclusive of an excellent house, garden, and offices, to which is attached a field of nearly an acre in extent. This is one of the oldest dissenting congregations in the south of Scotland, and some of its members are very respectable in their station, and easy in their circumstances; but most of them belong to the surrounding parishes, the number of families attending the chapel from this parish being only about 40.

There are two Sabbath schools in Hoddam. One of them is conducted by the members of the Establishment; the other by dissenters. Each of them contains nearly 100 scholars.

The probable average amount of collections at the church for religious and charitable objects cannot, independent of ordinary church collections, hitherto have been much more than L. 8 per annum. There are only two objects in behalf of which stated yearly collections are made in this way. The one is the Sabbath school just mentioned; the other is a female Society for the relief of the aged and infirm.

*Education.*—The parochial school, we regret to say, is not well attended. This, however, cannot be said of the unendowed seminaries, which are three in number, and at which most of the usual branches of education are taught. The salary of the parochial schoolmaster is L. 35; and the yearly amount of fees which he actually receives cannot, it is believed, exceed L. 12. The parish school-house is large and most commodious in every respect, and yet those parents who can afford it almost universally prefer sending their children to the other schools, where the fees are larger.

*Poor.*—There are two separate mortifications belonging to the poor of this parish. The one, consisting of L. 1119, 19s. 4d. Scots money, given by the Rev. J. Alexander in the year 1701; the other, consisting of 1000 merks, given by John Sharpe, Esq. of Hoddam in the year 1715. Of these two sums the accumulated interest has amounted to a capital of L. 468. This sum at present yields (at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.) L. 16, 18s. 6d. Besides this, the interest of the two mortified sums already-mentioned (which are lying on the estate of Hoddam) amounts to L. 6, 2s. 6d. The weekly collections at the church produce about L. 35, and the occasional loan of the hearse brings upwards of L. 3 more per annum. It will be seen that about L. 60 is obtained every year in these different ways. Yet this is not sufficient to meet the wants of the paupers (regular and irregular) with which this parish abounds. The fact is, pauperism is not here considered at all so degrading now as formerly; and this (taken in connection with the enlargement of the farms, and the extraordinary number of old people in the parish,) may, in some measure, account for the alarming fact, that, *within the last seven years*, the voluntary (for as yet there is no legal \*) assessment has increased from L. 18 to L. 140 per annum, and this although the population has been all the time on the decrease. The annual average number of persons receiving parochial aid is 24, and the annual average sum allotted to each individual is L. 7, 10s.—L. 5 of which is taken from the assessed sum, and L. 2, 10s. from the session funds.

\* The above-mentioned sum of L. 468 has now fallen into the hands of the heritors, whose object is, by its immediate distribution, to obtain the power of exacting a legal assessment.

*March, 1834.*

## PARISH OF SANQUHAR.

PRESBYTERY OF PENPONT, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.

THE REV. THOMAS MONTGOMERY, MINISTER.

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THE name Sanquhar is compounded of *Caer*, signifying a fort, and *Sean*, old,—both terms having reference to a fort which existed here in the ancient British times. This etymology seems more probable than any other that has been assigned. The original *Sean-caer* or *chaer*, was in the thirteenth century spelt *Sene-char* or *Sancher*, as appears by the charters of Robert I. and David II. Afterwards it was changed to Sanquhar.

*Extent, Boundaries.*—The parish is about 18 miles in length and 5 in breadth. By exact measurement, it contains  $61\frac{1}{4}$  square miles. It is bounded on the east by the parishes of Crawford and Crawfordjohn; on the north by Kirkconnel: on the west by Kirkconnel, New Cumnock and Dalry; on the south by Penpont and Durisdeer.

*Topographical Appearances.*—Its figure is very irregular. At the east corner, is the Lowther or Lodder Hill, 3130 feet above the level of the sea, and connected by a chain of high hills with Hartfell, near Moffat. At the west corner, is Black-larg Hill, 2890 feet above the sea, and united to a range of high land at the junction of the counties of Galloway and Ayr. The parish is generally hilly. It is formed into two divisions, nearly equal, by the river Nith. Each side of this river is bounded by a range of hills, rising generally with a gradual declivity. Some of them are covered with grass and others with heath. The hollow between these two ranges of hills forms a vale of very considerable beauty, extending in length about five miles. The prevailing winds are from the west and south; and with these the greatest quantity of rain falls. The climate is cold but healthy.

*Rivers.*—The Nith is the principal river in the parish. The tributary streams which flow into it in this parish are the Crawick and Menock on the north and east; the Killoe and Seuchan on the west and south.

*Mineralogy—Coal Mines.*—In the valley of the Nith, in the parishes of Sanquhar and Kirkconnel, coal is found in great abundance, extending about seven miles in length and two miles and a-half in breadth. Sandstone of a reddish shade, about six feet thick, generally overlaps the coal; but sandstone and blaes of different shades are found in many places. The coal appears to be a continuation of that which is found in Ayrshire. It cannot be supposed to have any connection with the coal in Canobie or Cumberland; for in proceeding down the Nith the valley contracts, and the transition rocks commence about a mile and a-half below the town of Sanquhar, near Eliock, and where the whole of the secondary strata of the valley of Sanquhar terminate. Three seams of workable coal have been discovered, averaging severally in thickness 3 feet 8 inches, 4 feet, and 4 feet 6 inches, and varying from 4 to 32 fathoms in depth. The greater part of the coal field is the property of the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry. In this part the workings are at present carried on in three pits, and about sixty men are employed. The water is carried off by levels. No steam or other engines are found necessary. The range of the coal seams is in the direction of the river Nith, north-west by south-east, and is bounded on each side by transition rocks. It dips to the north-east by north about one foot in twelve. It is frequently found intersected by whinstone dikes, one of which, from 12 to 36 feet thick, and ranging S. E. and N. W., may be traced on the surface about a mile in length. A small dike, a few falls above the old bridge over Crawick stream, may be also mentioned. It runs nearly north and south, and changes the former bearing of the metals separating the strata, which dip nearly east on both sides of it. The breach of the strata which constitutes the dike depresses the metals on the east side so much that they are considerably separated from those on the west side. On the east side it is called a down-dike, and on the west side an up-dike. Such, indeed, is the general effect which all dikes and slips of a similar nature produce on the metals in coal fields, where they frequently occur. The third seam of coal mentioned above has been wrought to the greatest extent by the side of the Crawick stream, in the moor of Sanquhar, which till lately was a com-monty.\* It is remarkable that, in this seam under the bed of the river, and to some distance on each side, there were found thousands of bodies resembling fishes of different kinds, and varying in

\* Professor Jameson, at page 89 of his *Mineralogy of Dumfries-shire*, says that, a little above Crawick Bridge, there are examples of *columnar glauce coal*, which in some places is seen passing into graphite or black-lead.

size, having heads, tails, fins and scales, lying in all different ways. When broken they were discovered to be, in substance, sandstone. They lay at the distance of about eleven or twelve fathoms below the bed of the river, which consists of regularly stratified sandstone. Impressions of shells and of several vegetable substances continue to be met with, both in the coal and in the metals lying above it. Coal continues to be wrought near this place, but has been found to be much intersected with whin dikes. It is the public property of the burgh of Sanquhar. A steam-engine has been found necessary to clear the workings of water. About twenty men are employed in them. Coal has been discovered also in several small properties near the town of Sanquhar, but at present is not wrought in any of them. In the whole of the basin of Sanquhar, the coal is generally of a good quality, but improves as it lies farther from the surface. At all the pits now mentioned it is sold at 5s. per ton. It may be stated also that C. G. Stuart Menteth, Esq. of Closeburn, has in the town of Sanquhar a depot for coal, which he brings in considerable quantity from his pits at Mansfield, in the parish of New Cumnock, a distance of about eleven miles. Including this, about 16000 tons may be considered the average of the quantity sold yearly at Sanquhar.

*Lead Mines of Wanlockhead.*—At the east end of the parish, about nine miles from the town of Sanquhar, are situated the lead mines of Wanlockhead, the property of the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry. They join the mines of Leadhills, belonging to the Earl of Hopetoun, in the parish of Crawford and county of Lanark. The workings of both include a circle of about two and a-half miles. The surface is bleak and mountainous, and about 1500 feet above the level of the sea. The rocks which generally prevail are greywacke and greywacke slate, often of a yellowish colour at the surface, but black toward the centre. They are sometimes so hard as to strike fire with steel, but easily exfoliate when exposed to the weather. When exposure is continued for a few years they fall to powder.

Wanlockhead has long been famous for its lead mines. They are said to have been discovered by Cornelius Hardskins, a German, in the minority of James VI., when the Germans were employed in searching for gold in that place. Sir Bevis Bulmer, master of the mint under Queen Elizabeth, with concurrence of the Scottish monarch, is said to have employed 300 men in that work in the neighbourhood of Wanlockhead and Leadhills several years

during summer, and to have collected of that metal to the amount of L. 100,000 Sterling. Many heaps of sand and gravel cast up then, are still to be seen on the banks of several streams, near the places now mentioned. The search, it is said, became unprofitable when the wages of a workman exceeded fourpence per day. A mine has been cut a considerable way into one of the mountains, close by the Wanlock stream; which is supposed to have been cut in search of gold. For such as wish to procure a little in a state of purity, or for the purpose of being formed into a ring, &c. it is still collected by the miners, though not in any great quantity. It is generally found at the bottom of the glens, of a granular form, disseminated among rocks, and mixed with sand and gravel. During the last four years, two specimens have been found which weighed respectively ninety and sixty grains.

The lead-mines at Wanlockhead were opened up by Sir James Stampfield, about the year 1680, and were wrought by him with some success, but not to any great extent, till the Revolution. In 1691, he was succeeded by Matthew Wilson, who procured a lease for nineteen years, and wrought the vein called Margaret's in the Dodhill. He carried his workings quite through that hill, from Whitecleuch to Wanlock stream, and was very successful in his discoveries. He was again succeeded in 1710, by a Company for smelting lead ore with pit coal. They had a lease for thirty-one years, and wrought to a considerable extent in the veins of Old Glencrieff and Belton-grain, but were not very successful in their operations. At length, after much discouragement, they had the good fortune to find out the veins of New Glencrieff, where in a very short time they raised a great quantity of lead-ore.

In 1721, a numerous Company was formed, of persons residing in different parts of the kingdom, under the name of the Friendly Mining Society. They entered into partnership with the smelting Company, for working the mines upon a farther lease of fifteen years, in addition to the one already obtained by the latter company of thirty-one years. The two companies thus united, carried on their operations in all the four principal veins then known, and to considerable extent, till 1727. They then separated from each other, and prosecuted their works in different grounds. The smelting company entered on the east side of the Wanlock stream, and vigorously continued their operations till 1734, when, having suffered great loss, though they had raised much lead, they resigned their lease. An individual partner in the company, however, Mr



Wightman, retained liberty to work in the southern part of their boundary. He confined his operations to the south end of Margaret's vein. But they were very unprofitable, and terminated with his death in 1747. The mining liberty which had been possessed by him was unoccupied till 1755, when it was entered on by the firm which still continues, Messrs Ronald Crawford, Meason and Company, by whom it was wrought extensively, and with much success. They continued their operations in Margaret's vein forty-three years. For carrying off the water they erected three steam-engines. The first was in 1778, and supposed to be the second erected by Mr Watt in Scotland. The Friendly Mining Society, having resigned their lease in 1734, were succeeded in the boundary which they had possessed, by Alexander and William Telfer, who obtained a lease of the northern part of their grounds for twenty-one years. They succeeded in raising great quantities of ore, which sold at a high price. At the expiration of their lease in 1755, Messrs Ronald Crawford, Meason and Company, were also their successors, who now possessed the whole of the mining liberties at Wanlockhead. This enterprising and eminently successful company continued the works which had been left by Messrs Telfer till 1775. About this period they discovered good ore in Belton-grain vein above water level, and continued working there till 1800. Then finding the ore above water level to be mostly wrought out, they were under the necessity of erecting one steam-engine, a second in 1812, and a third in 1817. The expense of erecting these engines, and supplying them with coal, which was brought from the parish of Kirkconnel or the west end of the parish of Sanquhar, a distance of about ten or twelve miles, must evidently have been very great. But still, the works were profitable till about five years ago, when the free trade system was introduced by legislative enactment, and foreign lead was allowed to be imported to Britain, without being subject to the payment of duty. From that period, the price of lead being much lower than formerly, the company must have suffered great loss. The veins have also presented great poverty. Cove vein, which is the present scene of labour, has never been rich. During the period which elapsed from 1823 to 1827, the company sunk forty fathoms under level, and erected two steam-engines under ground, but the quantity of ore found did not answer their expectations, and was not commensurate with the expense incurred in raising it. The five engines last mentioned possessed collectively 268 horses power. Previous to the erection

of these and of those on Margaret's vein, the water was raised from the mines by hand-pumps and water-wheels. The steam-engines have now all been removed, and a water pressure engine has been erected, which is succeeding remarkably well. It carries away all the water which was formerly removed by the two steam-engines under ground,—it works with little attention, requiring merely that the water be kept regularly upon it, and thus greatly lessens the expense which was formerly incurred. The Company at their commencement in 1755 had a lease only of nineteen years; but an Act of Parliament was obtained afterwards, authorizing the extension of it till 1812, which was subsequently extended thirty years farther. Accordingly, about seven years only of the present lease have now to run. The present lessees are, the Marquis of Bute, who has three shares, and Mr M'Leod, who has one share,—in all four shares. The great advantage of these works to the surrounding country must be evident, when it is mentioned, that the company during the last fifty years have expended at Wanlockhead, exclusive of their expenditure for materials in other places, the sum of L. 500,000. By the terms of their lease, they delivered a sixth part of the lead raised to the proprietor as rent or lordship. But by a new agreement, on account of the unfavourable circumstances which have been mentioned above, they deliver a much less quantity. During the last fifty years, 47,420 tons of lead have been raised; and to show how various the success of the Company has been, it may be mentioned, that in the year 1809 there were raised nearly 1037 tons of lead, which sold at L. 32 per ton. In 1811 its price was L. 24 per ton. In 1829 and 1830 respectively, there were raised 596 and 461 tons, when its price was only L. 13 per ton. The number of persons employed in the works at present is as follows: 4 overseers and clerks, 154 miners, 12 washers, 8 smelters, 10 smiths, carpenters, and engineers, 20 boys who assist in washing; amounting in all to 208. The work is let by bargains, generally for three months; that is, the workmen receive a certain stipulated sum for the quantity of ore per ton, which they raise, or for the fathom of dead work which they perform in that time. They relieve each other by courses every six hours, and in twenty-four hours the same course does not go to work more than once. Each miner, on an average, may be supposed to earn at present about L. 20 during the year. Agreeably to the contract of lease, some spare pickmen are always at work, for making new discoveries of lead.

The veins or mineral depositories hitherto wrought, as has been mentioned, are five in number, viz. Old Glencrieff, New Glencrieff, Belton-grain, Margaret's and Cove. They lie parallel, and distant from each other about 120 fathoms. Belton-grain, which lies nearest the east, is about 300 fathoms from Cove. They have been wrought to the depth of 60, 75, 93, and 136 fathoms from the surface. The tops of the veins lie generally to the west, and they slope or *hade* eastward at an angle from thirty to forty-five degrees from the horizon. According to the language of the miners they *hade* one fathom in three or sometimes in two; by which is meant that they make one fathom in horizontal length, to three or two in height. They do not generally run straight forward, but in a winding direction. From this cause, none of the drifts are straight lines, but vary in working southward, from five to fifteen degrees east to south of fifteen degrees west of south. In all the workings the medium point is found to be almost south and north, so that the veins cannot be said to vary much in their course. The rocks which they traverse lie in beds at the same angle with themselves. These are the indurated argillaceous mountain rock, or what miners call the gray and blue whinstone. The veins are from a few inches to 4 feet in width. The bearing and the barren parts are very various in their length. The former are found from one or two to 70 or 80 fathoms, as in Belton-grain. The latter are sometimes more and sometimes less extensive, and when they do occur are called checks by the miners. The length and depth of the bearing parts always maintain a proportion to each other. The length, however, is generally something more considerable than the depth. None of the veins have been found to contain much ore beyond the depth of 100 or 120 fathoms. They generally contract in their extremities, and diminish in their course toward the bottom. Clay beds are found occasionally to interrupt them. The course of Belton-grain vein may be traced on the surface, by the ground being somewhat slackened or hollowed. Nothing similar or peculiar in any way is perceivable on the surface of the ground over any of the other veins.

The structure of the veins is very various. The ore frequently lies in a regular form, but sometimes it is irregular, and mixed with what are called vein stones, as lamellar heavy spar, calcspar, rock-cork, &c. The ores are, lead glance, blende, manganese ochre, copper pyrites, green lead-ore, white lead-ore, lead-vitriol and brown hematite, all in small quantities except the lead-ore. The con-

tents of a bearing vein are often found as follows : On the under or lying side, is lead glance or common galena, then a layer of ochre of manganese several inches thick, above it a layer of quartz interspersed with iron pyrites, then another layer of manganese mixed with quartz, pieces of lead glance and carbonate of lime followed by greywacke, which constitutes the walls of the mine. Besides lead glance or common galena, the following minerals are also found, viz. sulphate, phosphate, carbonate, and arseniate of lead. The vanadate of lead has been found in the refuse of the old workings, where it was for a time taken for arseniate of lead. These different specimens are now and then found occupying the same drusy cavity, and when seen before being injured or removed from their relative position, exhibit a fine lustre and beautiful crystallization. The druses or *laeugh* holes, as they are termed by the miners, are also frequently studded with quartz, carbonate of zinc, &c. Sulphuret of zinc or zinc-blende is found in considerable quantity in some of the veins, particularly in Margaret's. Specimens of iron also occur, as ochry red iron-ore, but iron is always reckoned by the miners as unfavourable to their prospects in procuring lead. The lead glance at Wanlockhead was found by analysis to contain a small quantity of arsenic, antimony, and silver. The last mentioned was from eight to ten ounces in the ton of lead-ore.

*Lime, &c.*—Limestone rock has been discovered between the town of Sanquhar and Wanlockhead, on the farm of Castle Gilmour. It is presented in a stratum about 4 feet thick ; above it, is one of freestone  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet thick ; and under it, is one of blaes. It has been attempted to be wrought, but not with much advantage, nor to great extent. In that neighbourhood are also found marine marl, a stratum of marine shell about 4 feet thick, containing nodules of limestone, and a seam of coal about 40 inches thick, regularly stratified, but of inferior quality, being combined with a large proportion of pyrites. The extremities of the parish are occupied by mountains of transition rocks. The valley of the Nith contains only secondary strata. The sandstone is generally white, but in some places is strongly tinged with red. It is rather coarse in the grain, but for the most part is well adapted for the purposes of building.

*Soil.*—The soil in the valley of the Nith is of good quality. It is generally dry and gravelly, and in some places is loamy. A great part of the land farther distant from the river mentioned, on

both sides, partakes much of clay and moss, and is in a great proportion wet and boggy. It is generally of a deep soil, and well adapted for grazing.

*Wood.*—A great part of the parish is destitute of plantations and uninclosed. Of the lands belonging to the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry, 282 acres are covered with natural wood, which are chiefly the banks of the streams. The trees are but small; they are merely shoots from the roots of large trees, cut down about forty years ago, and are chiefly oak, birch and hazel. Of the estate of Eliock, belonging to Henry Veitch, Esq. about 450 acres are planted. A large proportion of the trees are full-grown, and many of them very old oak. This proprietor, by careful and judicious management, has greatly improved his plantations, and made many additions to them. They lie on the west side of the Nith below the town of Sanquhar, and extend to a distance of several miles. The trees of which they consist are very various, as Scotch larch, silver, spruce, and balm of Gilead fir, oak, elm, ash, mountain-ash, birch, beech, Swedish mapple, hazel, &c.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.\*

*Burgh of Sanquhar.*—Sanquhar was a burgh of Barony, according to one account, from time immemorial, and according to others from 1484. In 1596, at the request of Robert Crichton, Lord of Sanquhar, it was erected into a royal burgh, and is governed by a provost, three bailies, a dean of guild, a treasurer and eleven councillors. In its political capacity it is joined to Dumfries, Annan, Lochmaben, and Kirkcudbright.

*Castle.*—The old castle of Sanquhar claims particular notice. It is situated on a steep bank, in the immediate vicinity of the town of Sanquhar; toward the south it is a very picturesque ruin, and appears to have been a strong square building with towers at the corners. Close to it, was a large deer park; on the north, was a deep fosse and drawbridge; on the west, were the gardens, in which is still visible the fish pond with an island in the middle. At a short distance south from the castle, is the moat or ancient court-hall where the barons met to distribute justice. Tradition bears, that the castle was for some time in the possession of the English in the reign of Edward I., and was recaptured by Sir William Douglas of Douglasdale by stratagem, who put the garrison to the sword.

\* An account of all the parishes in the Presbytery of Penpont was written about the beginning of the last century, by the Rev. Mr. Hae, author of the History of the Rebellion in Scotland in 1715. His account of this parish, however, is now unfortunately lost.

*Historical notices.*—The first Lords of Sanquhar were of the Ross or Roose family, cadets of the Earls of Ross, Lords of the Isles of Scotland. Robert de Ross was the last of the line at Sanquhar who bore that name; William, second son of Thomas Lord of Creighton, who flourished in the reign of Robert Brus, married his daughter, Isobel, by whom he had a son. The father having come to the possession of the title of Lord of Creighton died in 1360, and his son by this lady became Lord of Sanquhar. Sir Robert Creighton, great grandson of Isobel de Ross, was appointed by James III. in 1464, heritable sheriff of Dumfries-shire. In 1630, the barony of Sanquhar was purchased by Sir William Douglas of Drumlanrig, on which he had a mortgage. The Queensberry family for some time resided in the castle of Sanquhar before that of Drumlanrig was built.\*

*Eminent Men.*—Mr Robert Crichton of Eliock, connected with this parish, was an eminent lawyer and advocate to Queen Mary and King James VI., and a Lord of Session. His eldest son, James, went abroad when young, and was intimately and extensively acquainted with literature and science, and so eminently accomplished in all kinds of bodily exercises, that he was the wonder of the age, and generally known by the appellation of the Admirable Crichton. The apartment in Eliock House in which he was born has been carefully preserved in its original state by the successive proprietors.†

*Parochial Registers.*—A register of births in the parish has been kept from 1757, but it is very defective, particularly near the period of its commencement. Many are not recorded.

### III.—POPULATION.

The population of the parish was in 1755,	-	1998
		1786, - 2500
		1800, - 2850
		1811, - 2709
		1821, - 3026
		1831, - 3268

Of the population in 1831, 1536 were males, and 1732 were females. Among the chief causes of the increase of population may be mentioned, the greater numbers which have been employed

\* Near Sanquhar Castle there was found about fifty years ago a stone with the following striking inscriptions: "Here lies the good Sir John Ross of Ryehill; Here lies the good good Sir John Ross; Here lies the good good good Sir John Ross."

† Mr Robert Crichton, immediately after the birth of this his illustrious son, having sold Eliock to the family of Dalziel, afterwards Earls of Carnwath, removed to Cluny, an estate which he had acquired in Perthshire. From this circumstance it has been erroneously supposed by some that the Admirable Crichton was born at Cluny.

in the lead and coal mines, in the more extended cultivation of the land, and in the operations of a carpet-manufactory,—the success attending the inoculation of children with the cow-pox,—and the improvements in cleanliness and the manner of living, among the people.

In 1831 the number of the population residing in the burgh part of the parish was 1527, in the landward part, 1741. Of this last mentioned number, 675 resided in the village of Wanlockhead.

The number of unmarried men, bachelors, and widowers upwards of 50 years of age,	88
of unmarried women upwards of 45,	177
of persons employed in agriculture as occupiers or labourers,	166
manufactures, retail trade and handicraft,	246
of professional and other educated men,	24
of labourers not agricultural,	230
of proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50,	5
The yearly average of births for the last seven years,	100
of deaths for the same period,	60
of marriages, also for the same period,	23

No nobility reside in the parish, and very few individuals or families of independent fortune.

The number of inhabited houses is 575. One only is building. There are two persons insane or fatuous; three blind.

During the last three years there have been nine illegitimate births in the parish.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

##### *Agriculture.*—

	Imp. acres.
There are in the parish, either cultivated or occasionally in tillage,	5583
never cultivated, and constantly waste or in pasture,	31530
capable of being cultivated with a profitable application of capital,	1500
in a state of undivided common,	181
under wood, either natural or planted,	735

The general kinds of trees planted are Scotch and larch fir. Of those which are indigenous, oak, birch, and hazel are the most common.

*Rent of Land.*—The average rent of arable land per acre in the parish may be estimated at 13s. The average rent of grazing may be considered at the rate of L. 3 per ox or cow grazed, and at the rate of 4s. per ewe or full-grown sheep pastured for the year. The rate of labour, winter and summer, for different kinds of farm labourers is about 7s. 6d. per week.

*Stock.*—The number of horses in the parish is computed to be 190, and of cattle 960, including in both all ages. There are 21,000 sheep. Of these 100 are of the Leicester; 2000 are of

the Cheviot; and the remainder are of the black-faced, short woolled breed, which are commonly kept in this part of the country. They are all generally in good condition and well managed. Of late, several of the farmers, instead of smearing them with tar mixed with butter or palm oil, have poured on them the juice of broom and tobacco. By this new process, the wool is found to be greatly improved, nor has the health of the sheep suffered in so far as trial has yet been made.

*Draining, &c.*—The extensive draining of the high and low lands which has now been effected has been found most beneficial for improving the grass and other crops in quantity and quality. The sheep and cattle are found also to thrive much better in consequence of this method.

*Leases—Mode of Husbandry.*—The leases in general extend to nineteen years, and include in their articles the most approved methods of husbandry. They require, among other things, a regular rotation of different kinds of crop, wherever the soil admits of them.

*Farm-Buildings and Fences.*—Many of the farm-buildings are not in the most desirable state, in respect of extent and convenience. In three years, however, about five-sevenths of the leases expire, when there is the prospect of the houses being rebuilt on the most approved plans, and put into the best condition. The enclosures and fences are generally in good order. One great obstacle to the cultivation of the land is the long distance which lime has to be carried,—a distance of eight, nine, or sixteen miles. Notwithstanding of this, however, a considerable quantity of lime is brought, and great improvements have been made in the cultivation of the land, both in the manner of conducting it and the extent to which it has been carried. The management of stock also is now much better understood than formerly.

*Quarries.*—Freestone quarries are opened up in many parts of the parish, but none to any great extent. The coal pits present nothing peculiar, in respect to the manner in which they are wrought. It may be mentioned that in smelting the lead-ore at Wanlockhead, a small quantity of lime in powder is mixed with it. Peat, coal, and charcoal are used as fuel. The operation of smelting, on account of the great heat of the furnace, is not found to be very favourable to the health of the persons immediately employed in it. The smoke which arises from the furnace is most destructive of animal life, and is carried off by a long flue.



*Produce.*—The average gross amount of raw produce raised in the parish, as nearly as can be ascertained, is estimated as follows :

Produce of oats and barley, whether cultivated for food of man or the domestic animals,	L. 4231
Of potatoes and turnips,	1200
Of hay, whether cultivated or meadow,	1962
Of land in pasture, rating it at L. 3 per cow or full-grown ox, and at 4s. per ewe, or full-grown sheep pastured for the year,	6600
Produce of the annual thinning and periodical felling of woods,	400
Produce of mines, including coals, quarries, and lead,	11,015

Total yearly value of raw produce, L. 25,408

*Carpet Manufactory.*—A very extensive manufactory of carpets is carried on at the village of Crawick-mill. There are at work 30 looms of the newest and most approved construction, with all the other machinery required for preparing the yarn, as dyeing, carding, spinning, warping, &c. The number of persons employed in the work is as follows,—62 men, 39 women, 12 boys, and 10 girls, in all 123. They work generally about ten hours per day, earn on an average 12s. per week, and appear to be in a comfortable condition. They manufacture annually about 4000 stoncs Tron weight of wool, and 10,000 pounds of English worsted yarns. Upwards of L. 2000 are paid to them yearly as wages. About 60,000 yards of carpeting are wrought by them during the same period,—which, sold at 2s. 3d. or 2s. 10d. per yard, according to quality, bring, at the medium between the two prices, L. 7625. Also, about 20,000 yards of tartan cloth are wrought annually in the town of Sanquhar by the Crawick-mill Carpet Company, which, sold, at an average, at 1s. 4d. per yard, bring L. 1333. A few of the carpets are sold in the neighbourhood; some are sent for sale to London; but the greater part to North and South America, to Hamburg and St Petersburg. The Company who carry on this work are entitled to the gratitude of the community in general, but especially of the neighbourhood, for their enterprise and industry, the regularity with which all their business is managed, and the correctness of conduct which they require and encourage in their workmen.

*Cotton Weavers.*—In the town of Sanquhar, there are about 100 cotton-weavers. The yarn is forwarded to them by manufacturers in Glasgow. The sewing and embroidering of muslin with cotton, by females, is carried on in the parish to a considerable extent. About 300 are engaged in the employment. Their webs are sent also from Glasgow.

The knitting of stockings and mittens was formerly a branch of manufacture of considerable extent in the parish, but is now al-

most entirely discontinued. The stockings were wrought in a peculiar manner on wires,—were mostly party-coloured, and of great variety in the pattern.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Town, Villages, &c.*—The population of the town of Sanquhar amounts to 1400. The trade carried on in it is chiefly the weaving and sewing of muslin; other articles made and sold are mostly for the use of the inhabitants there and in the neighbourhood, and consequently the trade in them is very limited. The public revenue of the burgh amounts at present to about L. 40 yearly, and arises from imposts paid on different articles of merchandize and live stock brought within its boundaries, and from an uncultivated common of 181 acres. The coal mines in this common, and in the part which has been allotted to proprietors, though let and wrought, have yielded little or no revenue to the burgh for several years. The village of Crawick-mill is situated in the burgh part of the parish, about half a mile north-west from the town of Sanquhar, on the banks of the Crawick stream. It contains 124 inhabitants, and is in a thriving and prosperous state. The only other village in the parish is Wanlockhead, and is in the landward part. The number of the population there is 675. These are all either engaged in the lead mines, or in some way dependent upon them. It can scarcely be supposed that any would voluntarily choose to reside there at so high an elevation.

*Means of Communication, &c.*—In the town of Sanquhar, are kept two post-chaises and one car for hire. There is also established in that place a post-office. Letters are dispatched and arrive to and from Thornhill on the south, and to and from old Cumnock on the west daily. The revenue annually is about L. 160. There are two turnpikes in the parish, and the length of the roads on which they are placed is 12 miles. About 9 miles of parish roads are also in a state of good repair. On the turnpike road, there pass daily one coach from Glasgow to Carlisle, and another from Carlisle to Glasgow. There are eight bridges in the parish, or over streams at its boundaries, which are of considerable extent and in good repair. With the exception of two which are old, they have all been built within the last twelve years. One of them, which is over the Nith, is made of wood, and of a very ingenious construction,—on which horses with loaded carts pass with ease and safety. There are in the parish two carding, two corn and barley-mills. The sort of fence most common is the

Galloway stone dike, which is built wholly of dry stones, and generally from  $4\frac{1}{2}$  to  $5\frac{1}{2}$  feet high. There are a few thorn hedges, but they are found not to suit well where sheep are grazed. Paling and wooden bars are also often used as fences. The bars are generally 6 feet long, 4 feet in height, when fastened in the ground, and being moveable are found highly useful where only a temporary fence is required. The parish is particularly favoured with the means of building stone dikes, as either sand or whinstone of good quality is found in every part of it in great abundance. The fences are generally in good repair.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church is situated at the west end of the town of Sanquhar. It is not very centrally placed for the greater part of the population. It is of elegant architecture, and was built about eight years ago, on an elevated situation, which overlooks the valley between Sanquhar and Kirkconnel. The interior is highly convenient, and affords accommodation for 1000 sitters. The free sittings are about 60. The manse and offices were built nearly at the same time with the church, are very commodious, and in good repair. The glebe extends to 19 acres, which may be valued at L. 2 per acre. The stipend is 18 chalders, one-half meal, and the other half barley. At Wanlockhead there is a chapel which accommodates 250 sitters. An ordained clergyman in connection with the Established Church preaches and dispenses the ordinances of religion there. It has no constitution as a chapel of ease,—but is properly a preaching station for the accommodation of the miners. The stipend of the clergyman amounts on an average to L. 65 a year. Of this sum about one-third is paid by the proprietor of the mines,—and the remainder by the men who are employed in them. Every one engaged in the mines, who earns at least 1s. per day, is bound to pay 4s. yearly, to the minister stationed there. He is also provided with a dwelling-house, and a small piece of land. In the town of Sanquhar, there are two chapels in connection with the United Associate Secession church; and also one in which a few Anabaptists meet for divine worship. These three places of worship are supposed to contain about 900 sittings. A great proportion of those who sit there, probably the one-half, reside in this parish, and the other half in the surrounding parishes. The average number of communicants at the Established Church, including those who reside at Wanlockhead, is nearly 750, and of those who attend there, 1700. Divine service is generally well attended at the parish church, and in all the chapels.

The number of families in the parish attending the Established Church is 551; attending the Secession chapels and the chapel of the Anabaptists, 164.

*Societies.*—A society is established in Sanquhar for Bible, Missionary, and other religious purposes. Its annual income is about L. 30,—one-half of which is collected at church on a day previously intimated, and the other half is contributed by the members of the society.

*Education.*—The total number of schools in the parish is eight: of these, one is parochial, one is endowed, and the other six are unendowed. They are attended by about 320 scholars. Grammar, geography, book-keeping, Latin, Greek, and French are taught in several of them. The wages per quarter for each scholar vary from 2s. to 4s., according to the number of branches which are taught. The parochial teacher, by the liberality of the heritors, has much more than the legal accommodation, in regard to house-room,—having six apartments with cellars. He has also two spacious school-rooms, airy and well-lighted. His salary is the maximum, being fully L. 34; and the fees actually paid to him may amount to L. 15 per annum. He has, besides, the interest of L. 100, mortified by the late Rev David Martin, who was a native of this parish, and a clergyman in the church of England. The number of persons above fifteen who cannot read is 2. The number under fifteen who cannot write is 396, and above fifteen 350. In some parts of the parish, the children are so distant from any of the public schools, that they are prevented from attending. In these circumstances, a teacher is generally engaged by one or a few families residing near each other, and not unfrequently one or other of the parents assumes this office, when unable to make any better provision for their children.

*Libraries.*—In the town of Sanquhar, there is a subscription library, consisting of books, for the most part, of useful knowledge. It was commenced in 1800, and contains 1460 volumes. The number of members is 178. The annual payment of each is 4s. and the sum paid on admission 10s. 6d. So many have given intimation of having demitted to read for the present, probably on account of the pressure of the times—that not more than L. 26 may be considered as the amount of the whole sum paid during the year. At Wanlockhead there is also a subscription library. It was commenced in 1756. The number of members is 105, who can now number 1300 volumes, which in general are well chosen.

It was begun, and is supported almost entirely by, the miners and other inhabitants in that village, and has contributed much to promote the intelligence for which they have long been distinguished. Each member pays on admission, 5s. and annually 2s. The annual amount of the sums received is L.10, 13s. In both of these libraries, some of the most esteemed periodical publications are regularly received. The opportunities for reading thus so abundantly afforded in both divisions of the parish, have been of great service for the religious, moral, and intellectual improvement of the inhabitants.

*Savings Bank.*—A savings bank was established in the town of Sanquhar in 1819. The amount invested yearly on an average of the last three years is L.1175, 10s. 6d. The average amount yearly withdrawn for the same time is L.1158, 9s. The total amount now lodged is nearly L. 5000. Investments are generally made by servants, labourers and tradesmen.

*Poor.*—The number of persons receiving parochial aid is about 50, and the average sum allotted to each is about L. 1, except when under sickness. The annual amount of contributions for their relief, under the management of the kirk-session, is L. 70, of which sum about one-half arises from church collections, and the other half from voluntary contributions, interest of money, and dues collected by the kirk-session. The heritors have not yet been called upon to make any legal provision for the poor. Few solicit parochial relief, except from necessity. The more wealthy parishioners generally manifest a charitable disposition, which produces a reciprocal good feeling in the poor, and excites them to make exertions for supporting themselves by their own industry.

*Jail, &c.*—The jail in Sanquhar has three apartments for prisoners, and is far from being in a secure state. Debtors are sometimes confined in it for a few weeks, but such as are lodged for criminal offences are sent off as soon as convenient to the jail at Dumfries.

Four fairs are held annually at the town of Sanquhar, at regular intervals. These have been continued for a long period, but they are now merely nominal; for few persons attend, and little business is done. There are also yearly a shew of sheep, and three cattle markets, which are tolerably well attended. They have been but recently established, and promise to be of considerable utility.

*Inns, &c.*—There are in the parish twenty-one houses in which spirituous or malt liquors are sold by license, the effects of which on the morals of the people are far from being salutary. Coal

is almost the only sort of fuel which is used in the parish, except in the remote parts, where peat is easily procured, and the carriage of coal is long and difficult.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Since the period when the last Statistical Account was written, very considerable and important changes have taken place. Stock of all kinds, but especially sheep and cattle, have been improved. A much greater extent of land is in cultivation, and that too cultivated in a more judicious manner. Such a quantity of grain and other kinds of produce is now raised in this district of country, as to be sufficient for the supply of the inhabitants. The great distance from lime, it must however be acknowledged, is a great bar to the farther breaking up of waste land, or the successful cultivation of what has already been broken up. Manufactures have also been considerably increased during the last forty years; but are far from being yet carried to the extent to which they might be carried with advantage. The banks of the streams afford many eligible situations for impelling machinery by water. Coal and ~~stone~~ **stone for building** are cheap and abundant. It must be allowed, however, that the possession of the land by few proprietors is not favourable to the calling forth of a spirit of enterprise, however great may be the natural advantages. The distance from water carriage, and the thinly peopled state of the country, are also obstacles to the extensive establishment of manufactures in this parish, which do not exist in many other districts of the country.

*October 1835.*

## PARISH OF KIRKCONNEL.

PRESBYTERY OF PENPONT, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.

THE REV. JAMES RICHARDSON, MINISTER.

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—CHALMERS, in his *Caledonia*, derives the name of this parish from the saint to whom the church was dedicated; and the name Conel he considers as an abbreviation or corruption of Congel.

*Extent, Boundaries.*—The parish is bounded on the W. and N. W. by the parishes of New Cumnock and Auchinleck, in the county of Ayr; on the N. and N. E. by the parish of Crawfordjohn, in the county of Lanark; on the S. S. E. and S. W. by the parish of Sanquhar. From east to west, the parish extends about 8 miles, and from north to south, not less than 15 miles.

*Topographical Appearances.*—On the right and left banks of the river Nith, there is a continued range of hills, irregularly formed, and of considerable height, distant from the river on each side about two or three miles, and affording excellent sheep pasture; many of them capable of cultivation almost to the top. Upon crossing the ridge of these hills to the north and south, the soil becomes cold and swampy, or consists of a peat-moss covered with grass and heath, intersected by narrow valleys, deep ravines and winding rivulets. From the base of these hills towards the river, on both sides, there is a gentle slope.

From the elevated situation of this parish, and the number and height of its hills, one might expect a moist and cold air, with late harvests and early frosts. The extensive draining, however, of the hill pasture, and the agricultural improvements which for a long time past have been going on, have completely prevented these effects. The soil under cultivation is much diversified. It consists partly of a light gravelly mould, loam, clay, or mixture of moss and clay, and deep rich soil, especially on the holm lands upon the banks of the rivers.

*Minerals.*—This parish abounds with coal of the very best description, which some years ago was wrought to a considerable extent; but, with the exception of one coal pit for smith work, the present tacksman has removed his coal operations to the parish of Sanquhar, which is nearer the seat of general demand. Several beds of lime and ironstone have been found in the parish; but no attempt of any consequence has been made to ascertain how far it would be profitable to proceed.

*Mineral Waters.*—There are two mineral wells in this parish upon a farm called Rigg. The one is said to be of the same quality as the Kirkland spaw in Galloway; and the other, called Riggburn, resembles Hartfield spaw near Moffat: but, in both instances, the water of this parish is the stronger. These wells are little resorted to, because they have been much neglected: but the water is often sent to very distant parts of the country.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Eminent Men.*—The late venerable and highly esteemed George Jardine, Esq. Professor of Logic in the University of Glasgow, was for a short time, in early life, parochial schoolmaster of Kirkconnel. The session minutes under his hand bear date 1759. A few years previous to his death, he visited this scene of his early labours, and such of his old friends as were then alive. He bequeathed for the behoof of the schoolmaster of Kirkconnel, in all time coming, the sum of L. 50, the interest of which was to be paid to him, and the capital laid out on the most advantageous terms.\*

*Antiquities, &c.*—Of antiquities or natural curiosities, this parish cannot boast much,—except baptismal font stones, which are found in different parts. It is said that St Connel, who built the kirks of Kirkbride and Kirkconnel, was buried on the top of that range of hills called Glenwhurry; but the writer never could discover the smallest vestige of the saint's grave. In the parish, there are several cairns of stone,—some of which have been removed, for the purpose of building stone dikes, to save the expense of quarrying, and were found to contain a quantity of human bones †.

## III.—POPULATION.

In 1755, the population amounted to	-	-	899
At the time of the last Statistical Account,	-	-	1000
In 1811,	-	-	1099
1821,	-	-	1100
1831,	-	-	1111

The small increase of population during the periods above stated has in a great measure arisen from the recent division of the parish into more extensive farms, than formerly,—one farmer now occupying the land which perhaps had been held by eight or ten farmers. The whole village holds of the Duke of Buccleuch; but, no building feus having been granted, every householder is a tenant at will: he pays a small annual rent, and remains in undisturbed possession.

\* Archibald Macnab, Esq. merchant, laid out a considerable sum in improving and beautifying a small property in this parish which had belonged to his ancestors. During the greatest part of his life he was much engaged in mercantile transactions in Germany. While in the execution of his plans, he was overtaken by a storm, and perished in the Elbe during the late war. In this part of the country, he was much and deservedly respected, and the small property of Holm, which belonged to him was sold and purchased by His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch.

† A few years ago, when a road-maker was levelling down the sides of a gravel pit upon a very small knoll, about 200 yards west from the bridge which is thrown over the river Nith at Kirkconnel village, he came upon an earthen urn of Roman fabric, filled with human bones, which, upon being exposed to the air, were reduced to powder. The urn was broken to several pieces before he was aware.



*Character of the People.*—The people of this parish, in general, are sober and industrious. Their character cannot be more accurately described than in the words of my late respected predecessor in his Statistical Account. “They are acute, deliberate, cool, steady, serious, and well acquainted with the principles of Christianity.” In no case have they ever, even in turbulent times, manifested a turbulent spirit; they have always shewn a loyal disposition, and a readiness to submit to the laws of their country.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

By a late measurement, the number of acres belonging to His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry in this parish is as under, viz.

	A.	R.	P.
Arable, . . . . .	6,091	1	10
Low pasture, . . . . .	542	0	14
Hill pasture, . . . . .	18,511	0	25
Meadow, . . . . .	104	2	19
Under wood, . . . . .	178	3	22
In roads, . . . . .	12	3	22
Occupied by houses, . . . . .	48	0	37
	<hr/>		
	25,489	0	39

The property of the other heritors in this parish does not exceed 1000 acres in extent; of which, from 300 to 400 are arable.

*Husbandry.*—A regular rotation of crop is observed by the tenants, in terms of their leases. An iron plough upon an improved plan is generally used. For seed, the red and early Angus oat is employed; and sometimes the potato oat is sown where the soil is considered suitable. Barley and wheat are seldom sown, on account of the great distance from a regular market. Sowing generally commences in the month of March, or as soon after as the weather permits. Harvest is generally finished by the middle of September, and sometimes by the end of August.

Upon each acre of green crop, the farmer generally lays down from thirty-five to sixty bolls of lime, with a proportional quantity of manure, such as the land requires; and frequently, before breaking up pasture land, it is limed at the same rate; and for every Scotch acre, eight bushels of seed oats are allowed.

The expense of ploughing, sowing and harrowing an acre of land, amounts to about 15s.; of weeding, reaping, carting home, thrashing, cleaning and carrying the produce to market, L. 1, 14s. 6d.; and for tear and wear of farming utensils for do. annually, 6s. The average produce of an acre of land is about thirty-eight bushels.

*Cattle.*—The cows which are kept for dairy purposes are all of

the Ayrshire or Cunningham breed, and amount to about 560. Upon good pasture, each cow is expected to produce from sixteen to eighteen stones of what is usually called Dunlop cheese; but, as the pasture varies, the average may be fixed at twelve stones per cow. During the last eight years, cheese of the above description has varied in price from 7s. 6d. to 9s. 6d. per stone. The number of followers or young cows is about 160, of which 113 are usually reserved for keeping up the stock, and the remainder sold to dealers from the south, when rising three years old. About 113 cows are either stall fed for the butcher, or sold as early calvers to cowfeeders; or such as answer the purpose are kept through winter, and fed on grass the following summer for the butcher.

Every milk cow, in many parts of this parish, requires from two to three acres of pasture, where the land has not been properly laid down,—also house feeding, which consists of clover and tares in the season, and turnips in autumn and at the end of the year. During winter, each cow requires not less than 160 stones of hay, generally meadow. From the extensive agricultural improvements which have been made and are still going on in this parish, few or none of the west Highlanders or Galloway breed of cattle are grazed or fed in this parish for the English market as formerly.

*Sheep.*—Most of the farms in this parish have a great quantity of hill pasture as well as arable land. The hills are stocked with sheep of the black-faced breed,—these being found more suitable for the climate than any other. Upon an average, the number of sheep kept in this parish, on the different farms, amounts to from 11,000 to 12,000. The number of lambs reared annually is about 7000,—of which 2000 are reserved for keeping up the stock, and the remainder carried to market, the average price of which, for seven years immediately preceding 1834, amounted to about L. 5 per score; and the price of sheep for the above period, about L. 11 per score. Every score of sheep generally produces four stones of wool, which was sold, during the years stated, at 7s. per stone; but, in 1834, wool was greatly in demand, and prices exceedingly high and much beyond the real value.

Every 600 sheep require a shepherd, who is generally allowed a certain number of sheep as part of his wages; and such shepherds as are married, and do not live in the houses of their employers, are allowed, besides a number of sheep, pasture for one or two cows, a house, and a certain quantity of meal,—which in all may amount

to nearly L. 30 per annum. The expense of shearing a score of sheep may be about 5s. and pasturage L. 4 per annum.

*Rental—Heritors, &c.*—The rental of the property in this parish of the Duke of Buccleuch (who is nearly the sole proprietor) amounts to L. 4160, 7s. 6½d; that of the other heritors, (who are only four in number,) does not exceed L. 450.\* The total valuation of the parish is 6964 merks Scots.

*Employments—Wages.*—With a very few exceptions, the working classes of the community are mostly employed in agricultural pursuits or as day labourers. A few families are employed in working coals in the adjoining parish, and may earn from 1s. 8d. to 2s. per day. The latter are sober, industrious, well-behaved, and well-informed, and by no means of that description of character which is generally ascribed to their craft. As the time employed in their mining operations is not above six hours, they generally spend their spare hours either in reading, or in working where they can find employment, in order to add a little more to their gains for the support of their families.

There are the following trades in the parish: masons, 2; tailors, 6; shoemakers, 4; weavers, 15; stone-dikers, 8; blacksmiths, 10; house-carpenters, 4; corn-miller, 1; innkeepers, 5; flesher, 1; merchant, 1; cooper, 1.

There are no public works of any description within the parish, except an iron-plating forge, upon a very small scale, and employing about eight or ten men in its various departments.

*Produce.*—The average gross amount of raw produce yearly raised in the parish, as nearly as that can be ascertained, is as follows:

Produce of grain of all kinds, including fodder, deducting seed,	L. 7886	0	0
Of potatoes, turnips, &c.	1880	0	0
Of hay,	1292	0	0
Dairy produce,	2800	0	0
Sheep, wool, and lambs, young cattle,	3220	0	0
Gardens and orchards,	480	0	0

Total yearly value of produce, L. 17,562 0 0

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Means of Communication.*—The roads are in a good state of repair; but bridges are much wanted on the great public road in the upper district of this parish. A public coach runs daily through this parish from Glasgow to Carlisle, and from Carlisle to Glas-

\* A small portion of land, not amounting to more than three-fourths of an acre, was held under charter so far back as the year 1444; the reddendum of which "unus solidus monetæ regni Scotiæ," is to be paid "ministro ministranti ad altare beate virginis;" and afterwards by *clare constat* from Lord William Crichton of Sanquhar to the minister of the parish and his successor in office.

gow, which both enlivens the country, and affords great accommodation to the inhabitants of this district engaged in business,—as, by means of it, they can have daily access to any part of the kingdom. There is also a regular post daily from the south in the morning, and from the west in the afternoon. The letter-carrier goes from Sanquhar, the post-town, to old Cumnock, every morning; and leaves the letter-bag at Kirkconnel in passing; and upon returning from Cumnock to Sanquhar he delivers his letter-bag here, and takes the post-bag for the departure of the post from Sanquhar to Dumfries. The present arrangement is good; but, were a mail-coach to start from Dumfries *via* Thornhill, Sanquhar, Kirkconnel, New and Old Cumnocks, Ochiltree, Ayr, and Kilmarnock, there is every reason to believe the contractors would be indemnified for their expense, and that district of country would receive much benefit.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—Of this parish His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry is patron.\* The stipend amounts to 15 chalders, at the county fiars' conversion, one-half meal and one-half barley, together with L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements. The glebe is of considerable extent, but of very inferior soil in many places; and part of it is liable to be flooded in winter, by the melting of snow from the overflowing of the Nith. There is abundance of free teinds. †

The only Dissenters in the parish from our national church are Presbyterians under the different demoninations of Cameronians and United Secession;—of the former, there are only two families, and

\* Chalmers, in his *Caledonia*, states, that the church of Kirkconnel at one time belonged to the abbot and monks of Holywood, who held the rectorial revenues to their own use, and a vicarage was established for the service of the church. In Bagimont's Roll, as it stood in the reign of James, the vicarage of Kirkconnel, in the deanery of Nith, was taxed with L. 5, 6s. 8d. At the epoch of the Reformation, the rectorial revenues of the church of Kirkconnel were held by Lord Crichton of Sanquhar for the payment of the small sum L. 20 (Scots) yearly, to the abbots and monks of Holywood. Small, however, as this sum was, his Lordship withheld it for many years, and they were unable to enforce payment. After the Reformation the patronage and tithes of the church of Kirkconnel, with the other property of Holywood Abbey, were vested in the King, by the general annexation act, and granted to John Murray of Lochmaben, Act Parl. iv. 575—665. In the reign of Charles II. the patronage of Kirkconnel was transferred to the Duke of Queensberry, and, upon the death of the last Duke William, came with a very princely property and title into the Noble family of Buccleuch.

† It appears that Mr John Carmichael was ejected from his charge of this parish in 1662, when Episcopacy was violently obtruded upon this kingdom. In the year 1681, Mr Samuel Moat, the Episcopal incumbent, was also obliged to leave his charge, because he could not take the oath required by the Test Act. From that period, the vacancy was protracted until the year 1732. The present church was built in the year 1729, and removed nearly two miles south from the site of the old church, being more central and convenient for the parish. Mr Peter Rae, then minister of Kirkbride, within the presbytery of Pont, was admitted minister of Kirkconnel, and the parish of Kirkbride suppressed, and divided betwixt the parishes of Sanquhar and Durisdeer.

of the latter, six or seven. The inhabitants are much attached to the Established Church, and are a church-going people.

A few years after the induction of the present incumbent, which took place in 1803, the present church was considerably enlarged for the accommodation of the villagers. Since that time, the church, manse, and offices have undergone complete repair, and at present, perhaps, there is not a more comfortable place of worship within the county. The offices were rebuilt, and are in good condition.

*Education.*—Besides the parochial, there are at present several private schools in the parish; and the number of scholars who attend these different seminaries, and were present at the annual examination, amounted to 159: but the average number during the year may amount to 170. The branches of education taught are only English, writing, and arithmetic. The Scriptures are regularly read, and the children daily repeat the Shorter and other Catechisms usually taught in schools; and weekly, they recite portions of Scripture. The salary of the parochial schoolmaster is the minimum, with a good house and garden; he has, besides, the interest of different small sums of money, for which he is to teach one or two orphan children when any are in the parish, or such whose parents are so indigent as not to be able to pay the school fees, which are extremely moderate. The fees which he actually receives may amount to L. 30 per annum.

*Poor.*—The most necessitous of the poor receive some supply in aid of their own industry, from the weekly collections made in the church, which annually amount to from L. 16 to L. 20. This, together with a small sum laid out at interest, is all that can be calculated upon for their relief. There is no assesment for parochial relief, nor is there any occasion for it. The farmers are extremely attentive to the poor, by occasionally sending meal and potatoes to be distributed by the session among them; and the heritors occasionally send donations for the same purpose.\* The

\* In the year 1817, when markets were very high and provisions scarce—and when many of the labouring class, from the rate of wages, were unable to procure support for themselves and families, a parochial subscription was voluntarily entered into, aided by the resident and non-resident heritors; by means of which, a fund was raised to a considerable amount, with which provisions were purchased, at a considerable distance, by farmers in the parish, and brought by them free of expense. Such of them as had any stock of meal or potatoes for sale, reserved the same for the behoof of the parish. By this means, a store of provisions was formed; and a committee of management was appointed, who met weekly to consider the cases of the applicants; and from the representations laid before them, instructed their store-keeper to give out a certain quantity of provisions gratis, to the most necessitous; to others at reduced prices, according to their circumstances; and such as could afford to pay received the article at prime cost. The quantity of meal served out and sold, as above stated, amounted to 1950 stones, (besides potatoes and pot-barley,) within the space of

average number of persons receiving parochial aid is 10; and the average yearly allowance to each L. 1, 4s.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

In the former Statistical Account of this parish, it is stated, that there were then not 700 acres under the plough; and now there are no less than 6391 acres, 1 rood, 10 poles, fit for every purpose of husbandry. Still, however, there is a great want of shelter and enclosures with belts of planting judiciously laid down. In the measurement of his Grace's property in this parish, it is stated that there are upwards of 178 acres under wood; but that wood consists chiefly of brush and sproutings of trees formerly cut down, and is confined to the sides of deep ravines and the banks of the different rivers. The valuable part of the wood, many years ago, was set up to public sale by order of the late William Duke of Queensberry; and the purchasers were not required, by the articles of sale, to enclose the wood, so as to preserve the young shoots from being destroyed by the sheep or black cattle. No doubt, in some places, these young shoots have got the superiority over their enemies; yet there is not a single tree of any considerable value within that portion of this parish which originally belonged to his Grace. The present Noble proprietor, however, has done much, and is still going on improving his princely property in Nithsdale, by planting, draining, and enclosing, and by erecting commodious farm-houses and offices to his numerous tenants. These improvements first commenced near his own residence at Drumlanrig Castle; but, from the great progress which has been made, there is every reason to hope that his Grace will soon carry them into this upper district; and, when these are once completed, it may be safely asserted, that there will be few more pleasant country districts, or more delightful tours than from Dumfries by the bank of the Nith to New Cumnock in Ayrshire. More than twenty miles of that road, without intersection, passes through his Grace's property. When these improvements shall have been completed, many of the disadvantages arising from an unfriendly climate will be removed. For the advancement of agriculture, every facility is afforded by good roads, and a constant supply of lime from Ayrshire, about six miles distant from the centre of this parish. In the north-east district, there is a regular supply of lime during summer from the farm of

six months, the time required. In consequence of this plan, the needy were well supplied with wholesome food, and, upon closing the whole concern, the sum necessary for reducing the price of provisions was found to be not much to every individual contributor.

Whitecleuch, parish of Crawfordjohn, which adjoins the parish of Kirkconnel. The road to that limework, at present, is not in good repair; but in the course of a few years, it is expected that that district of the parish will be completely opened up with excellent roads, sufficient to convey the mail-coach and carriages of every description from Portpatrick to Edinburgh and Glasgow, by connecting it with a new line of road already made in Galloway. From the survey and measurement taken, it is said, that the above line will shorten the distance about thirty miles.

October 1835.

---

## PARISH OF DURISDEER.

PRESBYTERY OF PENPONT, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY.

THE REV. GEORGE WALLACE, MINISTER.

---

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name, &c.*—DURISDEER probably derives its name from *Duris*, which signifies a door, and *deer*, a forest,—so that Durisdeer may mean the door of the forest, or the opening to and from the forest. It is well known that this district was in former times entirely covered with wood.

*Extent—Boundaries.*—The parish is fully 8 miles in length; about 6 in breadth; and contains  $28\frac{1}{4}$  square miles. It is bounded on the N. W. by the parish of Sanquhar; on the S. W. and W. by the parish of Penpont; on the N. N. E. and E. by the parish of Crawford; and on the S. and S. E. by the parish of Morton.

*Topographical Appearances.*—On the east side of the parish, next the march of Clydesdale, there is one range of mountains which runs from the N. E. towards the S. by the S. W. The highest point of the range is the Lowthers, which is 3130 feet above the level of the sea. The temperature of the atmosphere is rather cold. The climate is generally dry, and consequently healthy.

Besides the Nith, which runs through this parish, there are five considerable burns or waters in the parish, viz. the Enterkin, the Carron, the Hapland, the Maarburn, and the burn at Crarie Knoll.

The rocks of which the hills are composed, are commonly called *whin*, the greywacke of geologists; and the plain or low land is of

sandstone of a red colour, and very soft. The soil in general is deep and fertile, in many places inclining to a reddish colour. There is some wet heavy land, but in general it is dry, and in some places gravelly and sandy; the greatest part is of a loamy nature.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Ancient Families.*—Mr Crawford, in his History of the Family of Stuart, tells us, that James, High Steward of Scotland, was married to Dunbar, daughter to the Earl of March, then one of the most potent families in Scotland, by whom he had Walter, his son and heir, and James, who obtained from King Robert Bruce the barony of Durisdeer. It was afterwards possessed by one of that name, who is designed Sir Robert Stuart of Durisdeer; but what relation he bore to the said James, whether he was lineally descended from him, or was only a singular successor, is uncertain. Indeed, Sir James Dalrymple, in his Collection, says, I think this “Sir Robert hath been the son of James Stuart, formerly mentioned, for I find a charter by King Robert II. to Robert Stuart of Inermath of the barony of Durisdeer.” The family of Rosyth was lineally descended from the said James Stuart. Their mansion-house was the Castlehill, which appears to have been a very strong place, especially before the use of fire-arms. It was situated at the bottom of a steep hill, on the north-east, and had a deep fosse on the south-west side, and could easily have been surrounded with water; and therefore most probably it was built by the government for public service, in defence of the country against its enemies, especially against the English\*. Immediately before the place went into the family of Queensberry, it belonged to Menzies of Castlehill.

*Family of Queensberry.*—The first charter of the family of Queensberry was granted by James Earl of Douglas, Lord of Liddesdale and Drumlanrig, to William Douglas, his son, in which he gives him the hail lands and barony of Drumlanrig, to be holden blench of his Lordship, for serving as a knight in his army. This charter is sealed but not dated;—wherefore, after the said Earl's decease, John Swinton Lord of Mar, and Margaret Countess of Douglas and Mar, his spouse, by their letter on parchment, dated the 5th of December 1389, with one consent and assent, promise never to

\* Hector Boetius, in his History of Scotland, mentions, that when King David Bruce, who had been taken at the battle of Durham, and kept nearly eleven years prisoner in England, was ransomed and restored, this castle of Durisdeer, as also the castles of Dumfries, Dalswinton, and Morton were, upon a paction betwixt the English and Scots, demolished, because they were found troublesome to the English.



quarrel nor trouble the said William Douglas, son to the said unquibill Earl, in his possession of the lands and barony of Drumlanrig. There is also a charter or letter of confirmation, dated Croydon, the last day of November 1412, written by King James the First, under his seal or signet, confirming to Sir William Douglas of Drumlanrig, Knight, all the lands he was possessed and chartered of. The privy-council of Scotland confirmed this charter in favour of William Earl of Queensberry and his heirs, by their act, dated at Edinburgh the 2d day of February 1639. The first of this family who arrived at the degree of nobility or peerage was William, the eldest son of Sir James Douglas of Drumlanrig, Knight. Upon the 20th of July 1603, he married Lady Isobel, daughter of Mark Lord Newbattle, by whom he had three sons and a daughter.

This William, upon a commission from the Chancery in the year 1615, was served heir to three of his predecessors, who were knights, Sir James Douglas his father, Sir William his grandfather, and Sir James his great-grandfather. By a patent, dated 1st April 1628, he was created Viscount of Drumlanrig, and Lord Douglas of Hawick and Tibbers. And by another patent, 13th June 1633, he was created Earl of Queensberry, Viscount of Drumlanrig, Lord Douglas of Hawick and Tibbers. And by a charter under the Great Seal of Scotland, dated 7th July 1636, in the twelfth year of King Charles the First, in favour of William Earl of Queensberry in liferent, and James Lord Drumlanrig, his son and his heirs in fee, of the earldom and estates of Queensberry, the same are of new erected into one whole and free earldom, lordship, barony, regality, &c. to be called then and in all time thereafter the Earldom of Queensberry and Lordship of Drumlanrig.

James, the Second Earl of Queensberry, upon the 3d June 1630, married Lady Mary Hamilton, who, shortly after, died without issue. He was married again on the 26th March 1635, to Lady Margaret Stuart, daughter of John the great Earl of Traquair, by whom he had two sons and five daughters. William, the third Earl of Queensberry, upon the 8th of October 1657, married Lady Isobel Douglas, daughter of William Marquis of Douglas, by whom he had three sons and a daughter.

By a patent, dated the 11th of February 1682, he was created Marquis of Queensberry, Earl of Drumlanrig and Sanquhar, Viscount of Nith, Torthorwald, and Ross, Lord Douglas of Kinmount, Middlebie, and Dornock; and by another patent, 3d November

1684, he was created Duke of Queensberry, Marquis of Dumfries-shire, Earl of Drumlanrig and Sanquhar, Viscount of Nith, Torthorwald, and Ross, Lord Douglas of Kinmount, Middlebie, and Dornock. Duke William died at Edinburgh 1695.

James, the Second Duke of Queensberry, married lady Mary Boyle, daughter of the Earl of Burlington, by whom he had three sons. He was honoured by Queen Anne to be her Majesty's High Commissioner to the Parliament of Scotland, which agreed upon the articles of Union with England, anno 1707; and by her he was afterwards created Duke of Dover, Marquis of Beverly, and Baron of Rippon. He died at London the 6th of July 1711.

Charles, the third Duke of Queensberry and second of Dover, (born at Edinburgh 1700,) married Lady Catherine Hyde, daughter of Henry Earl of Rochester, by whom he had two sons and a daughter. Duke Charles died on the 22d October 1778, without any issue surviving him, and was succeeded by William Earl of March, who enjoyed his property and titles till his death in 1810, when the Duke of Buccleuch succeeded as heir of line and entail.

*Family of Menzies of Enock.*—Among the ancient families in the parish of Durisdeer, that of Menzies of Enock is considerable. The barony of Enock lies on the east of Drumlanrig, betwixt Nith and Carron; and the mansion-house stood on a point of the ground betwixt a deep ravine and Carron. On the lintel of the gateway was carved the year 1281. James Menzies of Enock was married to Catherine Douglas, daughter of Colonel William Douglas, second son of William Douglas, the first Earl of Queensberry. He disposed to his eldest son James, who had then got a captain's commission, the barony of Enock, with the reservation of his own and his lady's liferent of some part of it; and his son Captain James sold it to James Duke of Queensberry anno 1703, and bought the estate of Stenhouse.

*Family of Hunter of Balagan.*—Another ancient family in this parish was that of Hunter of Balagan, (who was also proprietor of Drumcroul, and some say of Auchensel.) The house stood two miles north-west from Drumlanrig, on the west side of the Maarburn. As to the antiquity of this family, it is reported, with what truth I know not, that, when King Robert Bruce was lying with the Scottish army near Glenwharne, and the English army at the moat in Balagan Holm, a man named Hunter, carrying a trumpet, and another, named M'Gachen, bearing a pair of colours, came from the Scotch army to the head of the glen called Balagan;

and that the one blew his trumpet, and the other flourished his colours in sight of the English army, who, apprehending that the Scottish force were immediately upon them, were so much affrighted, that they fled out of the country. For which achievement, King Robert gave Hunter the lands of Balagan, and to M'Gachen the lands of Dalwhat. If this tradition be true, the family of Balagan would appear to be a very old one. The last of them, it is said, usually contended with James Menzies of Enock for precedence. But the family is now extinct. It terminated with three daughters, one of whom was married to — Hunter, of Polmood, in Tweeddale; another to James Graham, of Shaw, in the parish of Hutton, in Annandale; and the third to William Charteris, of Brigmoor, Commissary of Dumfries.

*Families of Douglas of Dalveen and Douglas of Cashogle.*—Two other ancient families who had their estates and residences in the parish of Durisdeer, were Douglas of Dalveen and Douglas of Cashogle. They were both cadets of the house of Drumlanrig. All these lands are now in the possession of the noble family of Queensberry.

There are only three other land-owners in the parish; and their properties are small.

*Parochial Register.*—The date of the earliest entry in the parish register is 20th July 1758. It was formerly kept very irregularly.

*Antiquities.*—About a mile above the church, in the wall path, there are the vestiges of a Roman camp, which appears to have been a summer station connected with the great one at Tibbers, to guard the pass from Lanarkshire. A Roman road passed along the wall path referred to into Crawford moor to Biggar.

The castle of Drumlanrig, built about the end of the seventeenth century, is the only mansion-house, if so it may be called, in the parish.

### III.—POPULATION.

Population in 1801,	.	1148	
1811,	.	1429	
1821,	.	1601	
1831,	.	1488	
The population residing in the village is,	.	.	126
And in the country,	.	.	1362
The yearly average of births is,	.	.	34
of deaths,	.	.	12
of marriages,	.	.	10
Number of individuals of independent fortune residing in the parish,	.	.	3
proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards,	.	.	2
unmarried men upwards of 50 years of age,	.	.	10
women upwards of 45,	.	.	37

Number of families in the parish,	291
persons employed in agriculture, as occupiers or labourers,	164
manufactures, retail trade, or handicraft,	60
other educated men,	10

There is one insane person, two fatuous, one blind, and one deaf and dumb.

There have been three illegitimate births in the parish during the last three years.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

##### *Agriculture and Rural Economy.*—

Number of acres in the parish, cultivated or occasionally in tillage,	-	7896
never cultivated, being hill pasture,	-	9554
under wood, 500 of which are natural,	-	2000

All kinds of trees are planted, but principally hard wood, and they are so arranged that in the thinning they shall finally consist of oak only.

*Rent of Land, &c.*—L. 1 is the average rent of arable land. The rent of grazing an ox or cow is L. 4; and a ewe or full-grown sheep 4s. for the year.

*Stock, &c.*—The common breeds of sheep are the black-faced; and of cattle, the Galloway. The duration of leases is nineteen years. The farm-buildings are good, having been built within the last two years; and the enclosures are now in the course of being rebuilt.

There are no quarries but such as have been opened for the material to build farm-steadings: the stone is in general red sandstone, very soft; in one or two instances it is white and much harder.

*Produce.*—The gross amount of raw produce raised in the parish is as follows:

Grain,	- - - -	L. 6895
Potatoes and turnips,	- - -	1921
Hay, meadow and cultivated,	-	3373
In pasture,	- - -	2865
Annual thinning of plantations,		200

Total yearly value of produce, - L. 15254

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Towns, &c.*—There are no market or other towns in the parish. The nearest is Dumfries, which is twenty miles distant. There is only one village. No post-office. The length of turnpike roads in the parish is six miles. One stage-coach travels through the parish to Glasgow every lawful day, and one to Edinburgh three times a-week.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church is very inconveniently situated, being on the very east side of the parish. It was built in 1720, and is not at present in a good state of repair. It affords

accommodation for 350 persons, and all the sittings are free. The manse was built in 1763, and repaired partially in 1826. The extent of the glebe is 22 acres, and, with the manse and garden, may be L. 30 per annum in value. The stipend is 15 chalders of victual, one-half meal, the other barley, with L. 100 Scots for communion elements. The average amount of the stipend yearly is L. 240. The number of families attending the Established Church is 206, and divine service is in general well attended. The average number of communicants is 260. The number of families attending the chapel of Dissenters and Seceders is 85.

*Education.*—There are two parochial schools and two private: branches taught are, Latin and Greek, English, writing, arithmetic, and book-keeping. The salaries of the parochial teachers are, L. 30, 1s. 6d. and L. 24, 12s. and the yearly amount of fees paid to each may be L. 10. One of the parochial schoolmasters has the legal accommodations; the other has neither a dwelling-house nor school-house.

*Poor.*—There are, at present, 17 persons receiving parochial aid. The highest sum allowed per annum is L. 4, and the lowest L. 1. The annual amount for the support of the poor is L. 40; of which sum L. 24 arise from church collections, and the remainder from mortifications for the behoof of the poor. A disposition to refrain from seeking parochial relief certainly prevails.

*Inns, &c.*—There are five houses licensed to sell spirits.

*Fuel.*—Coal is principally used for fuel, though some occasionally use peat. The coal is procured at Sanquhar, at 7s. or 8s. per cart load—about ten hundred weight.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The improved mode of agriculture, the new farm-steadings, the enclosures, and the increased facilities of internal communication by roads and bridges, are the most striking differences betwixt the present state of the parish and that which existed at the time of the former Statistical Account.

October 1835.

# PARISH OF GLENCAIRN.

PRESBYTERY OF PENPONT, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.

THE REV. JOHN BROWN, MINISTER.

---

## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name, Boundaries, &c.*—GLENCAIRN, whose ancient orthography was Glencarne, seems to be compounded of *Glen*, which in the Erse signifies a valley, and *Cairn*, a collection of stones; the name corresponds exactly with the appearance of the parish, and seems to refer to the great hollow along which the river flows. The parish is about 15 miles long, and about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles broad, and consequently extends to  $52\frac{1}{2}$  square miles. It is bounded on the south by the parish of Dunscore; by Balmaclellan and Dalry on the west; by Tynron on the north; and Keir on the east; and is of a rectangular figure.

*Topographical Appearances, &c.*—There are many ranges of hills in the parish, most of which run nearly from west to east. The upper ranges are mostly covered with heath, but the greater proportion afford excellent green pasture. The valleys are in a high state of cultivation, and produce luxuriant crops of all the sorts of grain cultivated in this country. The height of the highest hills varies from 1000 to 1500 feet above the level of the sea. There are three valleys in the upper district of the parish, each extending to about six miles in length, which meet at the village of Minnyhive; and a fourth of greater breadth, which extends seven miles towards the lower end of the parish. The hills are chiefly of the transition class of rocks, and their appearance is characteristic of that series.

The parish, from its proximity to high hills on the west, is frequently visited with such copious rains as sometimes to inundate the low grounds, and occasion considerable damage in the harvest months: and in general the atmosphere is moist. The climate, however, is mild and salubrious, and the people in general healthy.

*Hydrography.*—On the farm of Lochurr, there is a lake which

is the source of the river of that name. Its greatest depth is about 4 or 5 fathoms, and its circumference about 3 miles; it abounds with pike and a large species of trout. The water has a black appearance, as the neighbouring ground abounds with moss. The scenery has a bleak aspect, all the hills around being covered with heath. In this parish, there are the following waters, all taking their rise from the high hills on the west, viz. Castlefairn, Craigdarroch, and Dalwhat, which all meet a little below the village of Minnyhive. When united, they assume the name of Cairn. The Cairn flows in a south-east direction, till it unites with the Nith, about a mile above Dumfries, seven miles distant from the Solway Frith. The length of each of the three waters above-mentioned, till they form the Cairn, may be 6 or 7 miles; and the Cairn runs about 16 miles till it joins the Nith.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Land-owners.*—Sir Robert Lawrie, Bart. of Maxwellton; Robert Cutlar Ferguson, Esq. of Craigdarroch, now M. P. for the stewartry of Kirkcudbright; John Walker, Esq. of Crawfordton; and Gilbert Collow, Esq. of Auchenchain, are the chief heritors; and there are upwards of 30 smaller proprietors whose rentals may be stated at from L. 600 to L. 50.

*Parochial Registers.*—The earliest register is one of births and marriages, and commences in 1693; with a variety of deficiencies, it has been continued to the present time.

*Antiquities.*—There is a tumulus commonly called the moat, about half a mile from the church, which, in Grose's Antiquities of Scotland, is called the Bow Butts, and, as is generally supposed, was employed as a place for the exercise of archery. There is a cross in the centre of the village of Minnyhive, made of freestone, about 14 feet high, consisting of a pillar about 9 feet high, rising from a circular pedestal about five feet high,—which, from its date, appears to have been erected in 1638. A charter was granted about the same time, constituting the village of Minnyhive a burgh of barony, with power to hold a weekly market.

*Modern Buildings.*—A monument was erected in 1828 to the memory of the Rev. James Renwick, the last of the martyrs, who was executed at Edinburgh in 1688. This monument is situated within a quarter of a mile of the village of Minnyhive, upon rising ground, about 100 yards from the place where he is supposed to have been born. It is about 25 feet high, and built of hewn stone; it cost nearly L. 100, which were raised by subscription.

*Mansion-Houses.*—The chief seats in the parish are, Maxwellton House, belonging to Sir Robert Lawrie, Bart., and Craighdaroch House, belonging to Robert Cutlar Ferguson, Esq. M. P.

### III.—POPULATION.

In 1755, the population was	1794	In 1811,	1666
1791,	1600	1821,	1881
1801,	1408	1831,	2068

The increase since 1801 may be ascribed to the improvements which have been made upon the land, and the influx of strangers into the villages of Minnyhive and Dunreggan,—who have become feuars.

There are residing in the villages of Minnyhive, Dunreggan, and Kirkland,	951
The number of families in the parish is	441
of independent fortune,	6
chiefly employed in agriculture,	178
in trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	113
Yearly average of births for last 7 years,*	40
marriages for same period,	13
Number of bachelors and widowers above 50,	49
of unmarried women upwards of 45,	187
Average number of children in a family,	4½
Number of insane, fatuous, blind, deaf or dumb,	7

During the last three years there have been thirteen illegitimate births in the parish.

### IV.—INDUSTRY.

#### *Agriculture and Rural Economy.*—

Number of acres cultivated or occasionally under tillage,	7000
which have never been cultivated,	26600
improvable,	1000
in undivided common,	1
under wood,	800

*Rent of Land.*—Of the 7000 acres of arable land, 2000 may be estimated at L. 1, 10s. per acre; 2000 acres at L. 1 per acre; and 3000 acres at 15s. per acre: total amount L. 7250. Average rent of grazing per ox, L. 2 per annum; per cow, L. 5; per ewe, 4s.

*Husbandry.*—The mode of husbandry generally pursued is that of the sixth and seventh rotations. The first crop is always oats; second, potatoes or other green crop; third, generally barley; fourth, rye-grass, to be cut for hay, then pastured from one to three years. The improvement of which this appears susceptible, would be—to cultivate fewer potatoes and more turnips, the same to be eaten down with sheep, and also what rye-grass could be spared from the horses,—the ground being generally of a light gravelly soil, and consequently well adapted for that system of management.

The only land in the parish that can be reclaimed with advantage, is generally high and covered with heath, bent, or *breckans*;

\* The registering of births is sometimes neglected by the poorer classes.



and the general course of improvement pursued, is to lime it for one or two years before, at the rate of fifty measures or six carts per acre, or by laying the same quantity upon it when it is ploughed up. If the first plan be followed, a crop is generally taken the year in which it is ploughed; if the second, not till the ensuing year; next, a green crop, when the ground is sufficiently broken to admit of its being taken,—otherwise, a second crop of oats; after the green crop, another crop of oats, and sown out with two bushels of rye-grass seed and six pound of rib-grass per acre, or the same quantity of clover seed.

Draining used formerly to be done in a very insufficient manner; but of late years, there has been a very great improvement in this respect, as the drains both upon the sheep pasture and on the low lands, are now generally made in a more scientific manner.

Irrigation has only been tried on a small scale, but with the usual beneficial results. Embanking the river Cairn has been carried to a very considerable extent, and most judiciously, both on the estates of Maxwellton and Crawfordton. Leases are generally for fifteen years.

Many of the principal heritors have expended large sums, of late, in improving their estates,—particularly Sir Robert Lawrie, who has erected excellent new farm-steadings upon all the farms of his estate; and his whinstone dikes are surpassed by none. He has also been most successful in improving moss, which must have repaid him well by the immense crops of oats, carrots, and hay, which the improvement has yielded.

Robert C. Ferguson, Esq. of Craigdarroch, has planted to a greater extent than any proprietor in the parish; and the plantations are laid out so as to ornament the estate. They are well managed, and are in a very thriving condition.

We may safely state, that improvement has not been obstructed in this parish by the want of capital: during the last fifty years, the arable land has been more than quadrupled.

A large proportion of the land is in the hands of resident proprietors; and where let, the leases are generally on liberal terms. The farms are well enclosed and subdivided with stone dikes, and the steadings are, in general, sufficient.

*Quarries and Mines.*—There is a slate-quarry at Benbuie, which the proprietor, Mr Barber, wrought for some years with considerable spirit, but which he afterwards abandoned, in consequence of the slates proving of an inferior quality.

There are the remains of a mine at Caitloch, which is supposed to have been wrought for lead at a very distant period; but at present, there is nothing which indicates that lead has ever been found, or that it ever existed there.

*Rental.*—The net rental of the parish may amount to L. 11,175.

Of which cattle may produce per annum,	-	-	-	-	L. 4575
sheep,	-	-	-	-	2800
crop,	-	-	-	-	2100
horses,	-	-	-	-	700
pork and pigs,	-	-	-	-	400
wood,	-	-	-	-	200
houses and feus,	-	-	-	-	400
					<hr/>
	Total,	-	-	-	L. 11175

We have stated the net rental, as it was found extremely difficult to give an accurate account of the gross amount of raw produce raised in the parish.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-town, &c.*—The nearest market-town is Dumfries, distant from the centre of the parish fifteen miles. There is one daily post to Minnyhive. The length of the turnpike road in this parish amounts to about eighteen miles: and a coach affords a communication three times a-week between Dumfries and Glasgow, passing through the whole length of the parish. There are four bridges upon the turnpike line, all in good order, and six other bridges upon the parish roads.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church is well situated for the convenience of the greater part of the population, being distant from the extremities of the parish seven miles and a-half. It is uncertain when it was built. It was repaired about twenty-one years ago, but it is still far from being comfortable. The church affords accommodation for between 500 and 600 sitters: and the heritors have agreed to erect a new church to contain accommodation for 1050 sitters. The manse was built about fifty-eight years ago, and since that time, it has undergone several partial repairs. The offices belonging to it are at present in a very bad state. The glebe extends to 12 acres of good arable ground, whose value may be stated at L. 2 per acre per annum. The stipend amounts to L. 280, 7s., including L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements: the teinds were exhausted at the last augmentation, dated 24th January 1821.

There is one Dissenting meeting-house, belonging to the United Secession church,—the minister of which is paid by his hearers, and his stipend may amount to L. 90 per annum. The number

of families attending the Established Church amounts to 330, and the number of persons of all ages attached to the Established Church may amount to nearly 1500. The number of families connected with the Dissenting meeting-house in this parish, and two other Dissenting meeting-houses in a neighbouring parish, is about 111; and the number of persons of all ages attached to them, nearly 600. The average number of communicants at the Established Church is about 600.

*Education.*—There are five schools in this parish,—of which three are parochial and two unendowed. Latin and Greek are taught at the parochial schools. The joint salaries of the parochial school-masters amount to L. 51, 6s. 8d. The first and second may receive each L. 20 a-year of fees; and the third L. 14. This sum is unequally divided amongst the teachers;—the first having L. 25, 13s. 4d.; the second, L. 17, 2s. 2½d., and the third, L. 8, 11s. 1d. As the heritors pay the maximum salary none of the teachers can claim a dwelling-house.

*Libraries.*—There are two subscription libraries in the village of Minnyhive, and a congregational one belonging to the Dissenters.

*Poor.*—The yearly amount of collections at the Established Church is L. 45; but besides this, the heritors have for a number of years past raised a voluntary contribution of L. 50 per annum. These sums, together with the interest of L. 300 of mortified money, are found requisite for the support of the poor, who are very numerous. There are upwards of 30 paupers, who receive from 1s. 6d. to 2s. per week.

*Fairs, &c.*—There are three fairs held yearly at Minnyhive, in the months of March, July, and October, for the purpose of hiring servants for the half year, and for the hay and harvest seasons. A new market for lambs was established this year. From the quantity of stock exhibited, and the concourse of people who attended, it promises to succeed.

*Inns.*—There are five inns in this parish, and several alehouses, but their effects upon the morals of the people have not been considered hurtful.

*Fuel.*—The fuel used in this parish consists mostly of peat and coal. The former is distant about four miles, and the latter sixteen miles; the expense of peat is about 5s. per cart load, and of coal about 10s.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The most striking alterations which have taken place, in this

parish, since the former Statistical Account was written, consist principally in the improvement of the houses belonging to the proprietors,—the superior accommodation afforded to the tenants,—the improved mode of cultivation,—and the excellent state of the roads. The villages of Minnyhive and Dunreggan have also been greatly enlarged, and the houses which have been built are of a superior description. The distance from coal and water carriage will for ever prevent the possibility of this parish becoming a manufacturing district of any importance.

October 1835.

---

## PARISH OF DUNSCORE.

PRESBYTERY OF DUMFRIES, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.

THE REV. ROBERT BRYDEN, MINISTER.

---

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Extent and Boundaries.*—THE parish is 12 miles in length, but of a very irregular breadth, varying from  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles to less than half a mile. It is narrowest near the centre, being straitly confined betwixt the parishes of Glencairn on the north, and Holywood on the south; and has been said, with some propriety, to resemble the shape of a sand-glass. It lies in a direction nearly east and west. The mean breadth is about 2 miles, and consequently the whole surface extends to about 24 square miles, or perhaps  $23\frac{1}{2}$ . It is bounded, on the west, by the loch and water of Urr and parish of Kirkpatrick Durham; on the south, by the parish of Holywood; on the east, by the river Nith, dividing it from Kirkmahoe; and on the north, by the parishes of Glencairn and Keir.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The parish of Dunscore consists chiefly of three valleys or glens with their enclosing hills, all diverging from the village of Cottack, in the various directions of west, east, and north. This village itself, which contains the parish church, stands upon elevated ground, and the church is seen at a considerable distance in all directions. The country is more open on the east, being beautified by the river Nith and its fertile *holms*. The most extensive of the glens is that towards the west, called Glen-

eslin, which is 4 miles long, and becomes very rocky and barren in the upper extremity. The hills enclosing this glen rise to a considerable height, and that called "Bogrie-hill," which is the most elevated in the whole neighbourhood, is at least 1200 feet above the level of the Solway Frith, from which it is about fifteen miles distant.

*Meteorology—Climate, &c.*—There is a considerable difference of temperature betwixt the eastern or lower, and the western or upper district of the parish. In the former, harvest is earlier by a week or ten days, and the cold in winter is not nearly so intense, which may be accounted for by the land being not only less elevated, but better sheltered by intervening hills, from exposure to the prevailing westerly winds. The climate is very variable, from alternations both of heat and moisture; but no register of the state of the atmosphere has been kept in the district. The weather, however, is very seldom foggy. The most prevailing wind is from the west, which is frequently attended with rain. Sea fowl are often seen previous to a severe storm, and are regarded as a sure indication of it. In the winter of 1823, during a heavy fall of snow, a flock of Norwegian swans were seen in this parish, and one of them was caught in a drain on the estate of Allanton.

The most common diseases of this district are affections of the lungs, stomach, and liver. Rheumatism is also a very general complaint among the poor and the aged, but fevers and agues, which prevailed forty years ago, are now very rare. Inflammations, however, are frequent.

*Hydrography.*—The river Nith passes along the eastern extremity of the parish for two miles. The Cairn, which is tributary to the Nith, crosses the parish near its centre, running in a direction south by west. This is a faster flowing stream than the Nith, and after heavy rains, or the dissolving of upland snows, comes down with great rapidity, affecting its lowest fords in the course of a few hours. Dalgoner Bridge erected over the Cairn is 80 feet in span, which is about the greatest breadth of the river. The Cairn rises among the hills of Balmaclellan or Dalry,\* in the stewartry of Kirkcudbright, and runs through the parishes of Glencairn, Dunscore, Holywood, and Irongray, in which last it is joined by another stream called the Clouden, which, although much smaller, communicates its name to the united waters of the Cairn and itself, from the point of junction, till they fall into the Nith, a few miles below.

\* The name Cairn is only applied, from the village of Minnyhive downwards, to the river which is formed at that village, by the junction of the three separate streams of Dalquhat, Craighdarroch, and Castlefairn,—Dalquhat having its source in Glencairn, Craighdarroch in Carsephairn, and Castlefairn in Balmaclellan or Dalry.

There is a reason assigned, however, for the name of the larger stream having merged into that of the smaller. For according to tradition, the Cairn once pursued a different course, and did not mix its waters with the Clouden at all. Instead of passing through the parishes of Holywood and Irongray, it is supposed to have passed through Dunscore in an easterly direction down the glen of the Lag, and to have fallen into the Nith several miles higher up than the Clouden. And it is a presumption in favour of this tradition, that the Clouden is still called the "Auld water" of Clouden.

*Mineralogy.*—The upper district of this parish consists of transition rocks, among which, in the higher grounds towards the western boundary, many large boulders, and occasionally blocks of granite, occur. The secondary strata, composed of red sandstone, commence in the lower division of the parish, about two miles from the eastern boundary, and continue to traverse the county in the direction of Dumfries, passing into Cumberland.

A considerable variety of soil exists. In the lower district, a light gravel or sand prevails; but there is a small extent of what is called holm land, consisting of a rich alluvial soil, along the banks of the Nith, as well as in the centre of the parish, along the banks of the Cairn. In the higher district, the prevailing character is a species of loam on a till bottom, and abounding with small stones. Peat-moss also occurs in different places, and in considerable tracts. There are six or seven mosses in the parish, from which great quantities of fuel are obtained. Those in the upper district are the largest, and afford the hardest and best peat. But of late years a considerable portion of this kind of land has been drained and improved. Generally speaking, the soil is dry, although some parcels of wet spongy land occur, and some good meadows, besides the peat-mosses just mentioned. Except on the holms and more fertile valleys, the soil is by no means deep. On part of the higher grounds, it is extremely thin and poor, and several of the hills are entirely covered with heath.

*Zoology.*—Foxes are sometimes found in this parish, and otters have been recently hunted in the rivers. \* Of domestic animals, all the common kinds are more or less reared. But the prevailing breed of cattle has hitherto been the Galloway or polled kind,—

\* About two years ago, a young otter was partially tamed and domesticated by an inhabitant of the parish. It frequently went a fishing with its owner, on which occasions it always retained the first fish for itself, and faithfully delivered up the rest. It was sometimes chained to a kennel, and sometimes went at large. If its master neglected to take it to the river to fish for any length of time, it went of its own accord, and after being satisfied returned to its owner. It has now passed into other hands, and its subsequent history is unknown.

but on several farms the Ayrshire has been recently introduced, and the prevailing breed of sheep is the heath or black-faced variety. Swine are reared in great numbers, chiefly of the smaller breeds, being fed to the weight of about nine to fifteen stones. Many of the farmers also rear their own horses, or breed young horses for sale. Salmon occur in the Nith, and sometimes also, although rarely, in the Cairn. They come up for the purpose of spawning in the month of September, and return to the sea in March. The Cairn abounds in excellent trout.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Antiquities.*—On Springfield-hill, which is a very considerable eminence in the lower end of the parish, there are obvious traces of a military station, which seems hitherto to have escaped notice. It is of an oblong form, evidently adapted to the nature of the ground, and covers about two acres of land. It is now concealed by a plantation of larch, enclosed with a dry stone fence, but may be easily traced out. There is a double mound in front, forming two crescents, with a ditch between them. The outer crescent is smaller than the inner, which not only expands into a wider curve, but is considerably more elevated. The interior of the whole, forming the top of the hill, is flat; but the same regularity cannot be traced so distinctly in the rear as in front, although there is a steep descent all round. There is only one entrance apparent, which is on the east side, and just at the point of junction of the outer with the inner mound. This has evidently been a military station, and probably a Roman one;—for it is situated very near the line of an old Roman road which passed through the parish of Kirkmahoe, on the opposite side of the Nith, and it commands a complete view of the country in the direction of Tinwald and of the hill of Burnswark, which is distinctly seen in the distance. It is admirably calculated, therefore, by natural situation, to have answered the purpose of a military station, and to have maintained a communication, by signal, through the Barhill of Tinwald, with the famous Roman camp at Burnswark. It is also reported, that a battle-axe was once found in this hill, but of this we have not been able to ascertain the certainty.

*Ancient Families.*—The chief families in this parish, in ancient times, were the Griersons of Lag, of Chapel, and of Dalgoner, the Kirks or Kirkhoes of Bogrie and Sundaywell;\* and the Kirkpatrick

\* There is a very general tradition that some centuries ago, three brothers named Kirk, despatched one Culton, a notorious robber, who infested Gleneslin, which was then surrounded by a forest, and that, as a reward for this action, the reigning monarch granted to each of the brothers, respectively, the properties of Sundaywell, Bogrie, and Chapel. The spot where Culton was slain is still pointed out, and cal-

of Ellisland and Friars' Carse. At the present day, there are no lineal representatives of any of these families in the parish, except James Grierson, Esq. of Dalgoner. Sir Robert Grierson of Rockhall, indeed, still takes the title of Lag; but the lands which anciently formed the barony of Lag have passed out of the family, and now belong to George Whigham, Esq. of Hallidayhill. Several of the smaller properties, however, in the parish still continue in the descendants of the families who possessed them two or three centuries ago. And among these may be mentioned the M'Burnies of Laggan; the Milligans of Dempsterton, whose ancestor was one Fergus Amulligan, who settled here in 1619; the Lachlisons of Burnside; and the M'Kinnels of M'Murdoston, lineally descended by the female side from the family of M'Murdo, from whom the property was named.

*Family of Grierson of Lag.*—The old tower of Lag, which is now a ruin, is said to have been built in the reign of James III. It stands upon an eminence, and was formerly surrounded by an outer wall and a ditch, having a moat or court hill a little to the east. It is a square building, of no great width, but of considerable height, and of very massive construction. The family of Grierson, who possessed this ancient mansion for many generations, is descended from Gilbert, second son of Malcolm, laird of M'Gregor, who died in 1374. For the name, it is said, was originally Gregorson, which is equivalent to the Gaelic appellation of M'Gregor. But this was a harsh term, and was therefore softened into Grierson, and was often written, by abbreviation, merely Grier. The lands of Lag were originally disposed to this Gilbert M'Gregor or Gregorson by one John M'Wrath so far back as the year 1408, the period at which the family first settled in this part of the country, after having migrated from the Highlands. In the conveyance of the lands of Lag to this Gilbert, he is designed "Armour-bearer to Archibald Earl of Douglas." And he obtained a charter of confirmation from the Duchess of Turrenne, of date 9th April 1425. A descendant of the family joined the Maxwells of Nithsdale against the Johnstones of Annandale, and fought at the battle of Dryffe Sands, a famous and most bloody border feud, which happened about the year 1598. And the last who inhabited the tower of Lag took an active part in the persecution against the Covenanters, and in 1685 was created a baronet under the title of Sir Robert Grierson of Lag. He died in Dumfries about the year 1730, and was inter-

led "Culton's nook." It is in the vicinity of the farm of Chapel, but within the borders of Glencairn parish.



red in the old church-yard of Dunscore, the ancient burying-place of the family.

*Friars' Carse.*—Friars' Carse, which was anciently dependent on the rich Abbey of Melrose, also demands a brief notice. In Catholic times it was a cell or monkish residence, of which, although there are no remains, there are still a number of antique stone figures, such as adorned Catholic chapels and churches, placed in the avenue leading to the present dwelling-house. There is a small loch on the property, with an artificial island in it; and Grose says, that the loch was the fish-pond of the friary, and that the monks concealed their valuables in the island when the English invaded Stranith. After the Reformation, the estate of Friars' Carse was acquired by the laird of Allisland or Ellisland, an adjoining farm. So far back as 1465, Cardinal Antonius confirmed a charter by the monastery of Melrose to John Kirkpatrick of Allisland of the thirty-six pound land of Dalgoner, including Kil-lilago and Dempsterton. But whether Friars' Carse itself was included in this conveyance, or was so early alienated from the monks, we have not been able to learn. From the Kirkpatricks the whole property afterwards passed to the Maxwells of Tinwald, to whom it belonged in 1684. In the time of the poet Burns, who resided some years in this parish, and was tenant of Ellisland, the estate of Friars' Carse belonged to the Riddels of Glenriddel. Burns was a frequent visitor of the late James Riddel, Esq., and the original copy of his poem of the "Whistle," in the poet's own handwriting, is still at Friars' Carse, where it was composed, and is now in the possession of Mrs Crichton. The husband of this lady, the late Dr Crichton of Friars' Carse, left an immense sum, (about L. 100,000) at the disposal of his widow and other trustees, to be applied to charitable purposes. The trustees at first contemplated the endowment of a College at Dumfries, but various difficulties having presented themselves against the execution of this scheme, the erection of a Lunatic Asylum for the county, with several other minor objects, is now understood to be resolved upon. Such an institution will be of immense benefit to the south of Scotland, and be well worthy the benevolent intentions, while it will be eminently calculated to perpetuate the name, of the donor.

*Bogrie and Sundaywell.*—There are two old square towers still standing in the upper part of Glenslin, and on opposite sides of the glen, at a point where it contracts to a narrow pass. The names of these towers are Bogrie and Sundaywell, and both

of them anciently belonged to distinct families of the name of Kirk or Kirko, and sometimes also spelt Kirkhoe. That of Sundaywell is still inhabited as a farm-house. There is a stone over the door bearing the initials I. K., and opposite S. W., meaning John Kirk of Sundaywell. Under these initials, and at the bottom of the stone, which is in the shape of a heart, is the date 1651. In the troublous times of persecution, this house was a favourite resort of the Covenanters, to whom the proprietor at that period, the same John Kirk who erected the tower, seems to have been particularly friendly. Mr Blackadder, and others of the ejected ministers, were in the habit of visiting Kirk, and preaching at Sundaywell. And Kirk himself, in all likelihood, was present at the celebrated communion dispensed in the bosom of the hills of the neighbouring parish of Irongray, at which John Welch, who had been driven from the cure of that parish, presided,—of which communion an interesting, though rude, memorial remains to this day, consisting of rows of stones placed in the form of sacramental tables. For Blackadder was residing at the time with Kirk at Sundaywell, and preached the preparation sermon on the preceding Saturday in “Meiklewood moor”—a district partly within this parish, and in which the ruins of an old house, bearing the name of the “Preaching Walls,” still remain.

*Eminent Men.*—It may here also be noticed, that the famous John Welch, grandfather of the minister of Irongray above-mentioned, and son-in-law to John Knox, was a native of this parish. His father was laird of Collieston, a small property belonging to the family of Welch for several generations, and situated in Glenselin of Dunscore, and not in the parish of Irongray, as erroneously stated in the “Scots Worthies.” It now belongs to William Copland, Esq.

*Church Lands.*—A very considerable portion of this parish anciently belonged to the Catholic church. Mr Chalmers, in his *Caledonia*, (Vol. iii. p. 51, note,) has the following statement: “At Dunscore there was formerly a lake where none appears at present. In 1236, Alexander II. granted to the Monks of Melros ‘lacum de Dunscore in valle de Nyth, et quicquid continetur, infra eundem lacum.’” And he refers to the *Chartulary of Melrose*, 1639, as his authority.

This seems to define the extent of the church lands, and it may also help to determine the site of the quondam lake. For as it included *beneath* it the whole church lands in the parish, it seems

not improbable that it formed the upper boundary of the estate of Dalgoner, which actually lies in a sort of natural basin or low ground, in which there is a peat-moss. And a tradition also obtains, that there was a loch in this very neighbourhood in ancient times. In point of fact, Dalgoner and Killilago form the extreme upper boundary of the church lands of Dunscore—which, according to a decree of valuation of the parish, dated 21st March 1634, are designed “the thirty pound land of the Monkland of Melrose,” and comprehend the following, “Dalgoner, Killilago, Bessiewalla, Laggan, Edgarton, M’Cheynston, M’Cubbington, Milliganton, Kilroy, Fardingwell, Dempsterton, Newton, Poundland, Sweir, Portrack, Friars’ Carse, and Allisland.” These lands, as Chalmers farther informs us, were gifted to the monks of Melrose by Affrica, daughter of Edgar, son of Dunevald, and grandson of Dunegal of Stranith (the strath or valley of Nith.) And, according to the same author, this Edgar possessed the lands of Dunscore under William the Lion, and was succeeded in them by his said daughter, Affrica, who gifted so large a portion of them to the church. It appears, however, that the church itself, or *benefice* of Dunscore, belonged to the monks of Holywood, betwixt whom and the monks of Melrose a dispute arose concerning the right to it. But this controversy was settled in 1257 at Kirkmahoe by William, Bishop of Glasgow, who decided that the Church belonged to the monks of Holywood, but that the Abbot of Melrose had a right to the tithes of their own lands which they had acquired from Affrica. In Catholic times, the cure was served by a vicar, and in Bagimont’s roll the vicarage of Dunscore, in the deanery of Nith, was taxed at L. 4. The vicar enjoyed a manse and glebe.

On 12th August 1566, the church lands of Dunscore were dispo-  
 ned by John Welch, (the last) vicar of Dunscore, with consent  
 of the commendator of the monastery of Holywood, to Cuthbert  
 Grierson of Layth, and this conveyance was confirmed by a char-  
 ter of James VI., of date 12th November 1574.

*Heritors.*—There are no fewer than 47 proprietors of land in  
 this parish at present; but many of the properties, of course, are  
 small.

### III.—POPULATION.

It is stated in the former Statistical Account, that in 1791 the  
 population of this parish was 1033; and that, by Dr Webster’s re-  
 port, about forty years prior to that date, it amounted to 651. But  
 in 1730 it amounted to 750, so that if Dr Webster’s report be cor-  
 \*

rect, the population must have decreased 99 betwixt the years 1730 and 1750. The present number of inhabitants, according to last census, is 1488. Of these the greater part reside in the country, and follow agricultural occupations,—for there is only one village deserving the name, situated at the church, and containing 211 inhabitants, so that the remaining 1277 dwell wholly in the country.

Annual average of births for the last seven years,	-	307
marriages,	-	124
deaths,	-	174
Number of persons under 15 years of age, according to last census (1831,) upwards of 70,	-	559 33

There are many substantial families in this parish, and the number of proprietors whose estates yield a rental of upwards of L. 50 a year amounts to no less than 40, of whom 18 are non-resident.

Number of families in the parish,	-	291
chiefly employed in agriculture,	-	168
in trade, manufactures, and handicraft,	-	58

During the last three years, there have been 5 illegitimate births in the parish.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—The number of acres in the parish, either cultivated or occasionally in tillage, exceeds 5300; the number which have never been cultivated may be about 5900, of which only a small proportion could be added to the cultivated land. But a considerable part might be improved by drainage and levelling, and rendered productive as meadow. The number of acres under wood is about 440, of which 60 are of natural wood, and the rest planted chiefly with larch and Scotch fir. The plantations are well managed, and annually thinned. The greater part of the wood has been planted within the last thirty years.

*Rent of Land.*—The average rent of arable land in this parish does not exceed L. 1, 4s. per acre. The average rent of grazing is at the rate of L. 3 per bullock or cow, and 4s. per ewe or full-grown sheep.

*Produce.*—The average amount and value of raw produce yearly raised in the parish may be as follows:—

Grain of all kinds,	-	-	L. 7894	1	8
Potatoes, turnips, and cabbages,	-	-	3307	10	0
Hay, meadow and sown grass,	-	-	1612	15	0
Pasture,	-	-	3075	9	0
Gardens and orchards, (very trifling.)	-	-	-	-	-
Annual thinning of plantations, say	-	-	100	0	0

L. 15,989 15 8

*Husbandry.*—Husbandry has made great advances of late years in reclaiming waste land, draining, fencing, and manuring. The

duration of leases is generally fifteen years, and sometimes nineteen. A gradual improvement has taken place in reference to farm-buildings. The old thatched houses have in a great measure disappeared. All the new houses are either slated or covered with thin flags or slabs of the red freestone peculiar to the county. The dwelling-houses are also enlarged in regard to accommodation, although for the most part confined to one story, and the farm offices are more extensive and commodious. The dry stone dike is the most prevailing enclosure, and the farms in general are well subdivided.

*Manufactures.*—With the exception of country weaving, there is no manufacture carried on in this parish. About five years ago, a distillery was erected on a pretty extensive scale, and actively carried on for two years, when the proprietor died and the concern was given up, without any prospect of being renewed. It consumed for the time a large quantity of grain, and in so far as it afforded a ready and convenient market, would have proved a benefit to the farmer, had it been continued. But being far removed from fuel, and labouring under other disadvantages, it is doubtful whether it might ultimately have proved a profitable concern.

There was once an agricultural society in the parish, but it broke up some years ago, and no attempt has been made to revive it.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-town, &c.*—The nearest market-town to this parish is Dumfries, which is about six miles from the lower end, and nine from the village of Cottack, in the centre of the parish before-mentioned, in which is situated the church. The post-town of Minnyhive indeed, is only seven miles distant from this village, but the usual communication is through Dumfries, as being most convenient.

*Means of Communication.*—The turnpike betwixt Dumfries and Glasgow passes through the eastern part of Dunscore for three miles, and sends off a branch from the lodge of Friars' Carse, which goes right up through the whole extent of the parish, and nearly bisects it lengthways, passing the church, and leading out on the west through the parish of Balmaclellan to New Galloway. There is also another good road, which passes through four miles of this parish, leading from Dumfries to Ayr by Minnyhive, along which a stage-coach has lately commenced running, going to Ayr the one day, and returning the next to Dumfries. All the roads are kept in a good state of repair, and there are no tolls within the parish of Dunscore, except one side bar as a check to the toll of Newbridge,

in the parish of Holywood. Coaches travel daily along the turnpike road both to Edinburgh and Glasgow. Dalgoner Bridge, with a span of 80 feet, as already mentioned, is the only bridge within the parish of any extent.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church is conveniently situated in the village of Cottack, at nearly equal distances from the two extremes of the parish. It was built in the year 1823, and is in good repair. It accommodates 850, but there are not above 10 free sittings. The manse was built in 1814, and is also in good condition. The glebe consists of about fifty-one acres, and may be worth L. 60 per annum. The stipend is the minimum, with L. 12, 12s. in addition, being a voluntary augmentation given by the heritors in 1798.

The parish church formerly stood at the eastern or lower end of the parish, five miles from Dumfries. But in 1649 it was removed to its present situation, nearly in the centre of the parish, and nine miles from Dumfries; but the original edifice was taken down, and a new one erected in 1823, which is of a Gothic style, with an elegant square tower in the western end. In Popish times, there was a chapel in Gleneslin, at the distance of seven miles from the site which the church then occupied, and there was a church-yard attached to both church and chapel. That which attached to the chapel has now entirely disappeared, and has not been used in the memory of man, but there is a farm in the vicinity which bears the name of Chapel to this day. The burying-ground, however, which surrounded the old church at the lower end of the parish, is still in use. In this burying-ground Grierson of Lag, as already mentioned, and the ancestors of other ancient families, lie interred: so that there are two church-yards in the parish.

There is one Dissenting chapel in the parish, in connection with the Relief synod, the minister of which is paid by the collections and seat rents.

The number of families adhering to the Established Church,	250
belonging to various Dissenting bodies, Relief, Secession, and Reformed Presbytery, including 1 of Roman Catholics,	41
	<hr/> 291

Divine service is uniformly well attended in the Established Church, and the average number of communicants is about 450.

The average amount of money raised yearly for religious and charitable purposes, both by subscriptions and church collections,

exclusively of the ordinary collections for the parish poor, may be about L. 15.

*Education.*—There are three parochial schools in this parish, in which all the ordinary branches of instruction, including Latin and Greek, are well taught. Prior to the year 1828, there was no assessed salary paid by the heritors, but the maximum is now given, and is divided into nearly three equal portions. But besides the assessed salary, L. 300 was mortified about a century ago by a Mr Grierson of Edinburgh, of which the interest is equally divided among the three parochial teachers. In 1807, a farther sum of L. 50 was bequeathed to the centre school at the church by Mrs Janet Dobie. And in 1829, Robert M'Kinnel, Esq. of M'Murdoston, left L. 200 for behoof of the school in the lower district of the parish, and L. 50 for that at the church also. The interest of Mr Grierson's L. 300 was all the salary which the teachers enjoyed previous to 1828, except Janet Dobie's legacy after the year 1807. The teachers have no dwelling-houses; but two good school-rooms were lately erected by subscription, and the third was at the same time thoroughly repaired. All the schools, therefore, are at present in good condition. There are few, if any, children above six years of age, who have not been entered at school; and none above fifteen are known to be without the elements of common education, to the value of which the people are fully alive. The school in the upper district is nearly four miles from the western extremity of the parish, at which several families reside. These families, however, are nearer to one of the parish schools of Balmaclellan, in the stewartry of Kirkcudbright.

*Literature.*—There is no general library in the parish, but juvenile libraries for the children attending the Sabbath schools have existed for some years, and have been productive of benefit among the youth, many of whom have acquired a taste for reading. Nor does the habit of reading prevail among this class only, for the parishioners generally are substantially educated, and fond of books.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid is about 25. The sums each receive vary from L. 1 to L. 3 a-year, or from 5s. to 10s. every second month. But, besides these allowances in money, there are always some distributions of meal, fuel, and clothing in the winter season, both from the ordinary funds, and from the benefactions of one or more leading heritors.

The annual receipts for the relief of the poor are from L. 60 to

L. 70; of which about L. 44 are raised by the ordinary church collections, and the remainder chiefly consists of the interest of legacies or mortified money, but partly also of the fees levied for proclamation of the banns of marriage, &c. But out of this fund the salaries of the session-clerk and treasurer, the precentor and church officer are all paid,—besides support to the poor. Of late years, the number of poor has rather been on the increase—yet a disposition to refrain from seeking parochial relief still pervades many among the poorer classes. And the great majority of those who receive aid are the aged, infirm, and sick. Occasionally, however, heavier burdens than usual, such as the support of natural children, fall upon the funds; but there has never been occasion for any kind of assessment.

*Inns.*—At present there are two inns in this parish, both at the village of Cottack, one of which is necessary for the accommodation of travellers, but one of them might also be well dispensed with; yet, with a few exceptions, sobriety and industry prevail among the peasantry.

The fuel most generally used is peat, which is got within the parish, as already observed. Sea-borne coal is procured at Dumfries, and Scotch coal is driven from Sanquhar, a distance of twenty miles, but it is always to be had at Mr Whigham's depot at Allanton, within the parish. This gentleman rents the Duke of Buccleuch's collieries at Sanquhar; and, to the great convenience of the neighbourhood, keeps a constant supply on hand, by means of his coal waggons, which are constantly plying on the road; and he always distributes a quantity to the poor in winter. The better sort of families use a great deal of coal in addition to peat.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Since the last Statistical account was drawn up, the population has increased by 575, being more than one-third of the whole number of souls. The inhabited houses have increased by thirty-six, while the greater part of the former houses have also been renewed and much enlarged and otherwise improved. There is also a new manse, a new church, and two new school-houses built. The teachers have received an addition of L. 17 of salary each, and are much superior to their predecessors in respect of qualifications,—at least generally speaking; for it must be allowed, that, under all the disadvantages of the old system, the schools were occasionally filled with able teachers.—The old Scottish plough has been almost universally supplanted by the improved iron one, and the number of



ploughs employed in agriculture has been increased by at least one-third. The annual funds for supporting the poor have advanced from L. 23 to L. 70, although still arising from the same voluntary sources. And the number of poor persons receiving parochial relief is doubled. Both the face of the country, and the intellectual state of the people, have been greatly improved.

*October 1835.*

---

## PARISH OF CAERLAVEROCK.

PRESBYTERY OF DUMFRIES, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.

THE REV. ROBERT GILLIES, MINISTER.

---

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name, Boundaries, &c.*—ANTIQUARIES differ as to the import of the name of this parish. Chalmers considers it to mean “the castle with the rotundity or buttress jutting out,” while, according to Baxter, it signifies “the castle close upon the sea.” It was anciently spelled Caerlaverock, and this appears the more correct orthography,—although at present it is as frequently written Carlaverock. The situation is entirely peninsular. Connected with Dumfries on the north-west, it stretches toward the English coast. From this, it is separated by the Solway, which is here about twelve miles in breadth. The Nith on the west, and Lochar on the east, are the other boundaries. The Nith is generally fordable at low water, and, in very low tides, people may wade across to the adjacent parish of New Abbey. But on the other side of the parish, the extensive moss through which the Lochar flows, forms an insuperable barrier to all communication, except during the driest months of summer, and even then only to pedestrians. The parish of Caerlaverock is about 6 miles in length, and nowhere more than 2 in breadth. It is in the form of an elongated hill, descending gradually to the Nith on the one side, and the Lochar on the other, and terminating in the Blackshaw flat towards the Solway. About six miles are washed by the tide, which flows up the Nith as far as Dumfries. The shore is a sandy mud, which used formerly to be laid on the land as a substitute for lime. The

climate is moist,—which may be partly occasioned by the extensive Lochar morass, and partly by the neighbourhood of the towering Criffel.

*Geology.*—Almost the whole parish lies upon a bed of red sandstone. This stone is easily wrought, and at the same time durable. According to tradition, and, I may add, probability, New Abbey was built of Caerlaverock stones. A quarry on the glebe has long been famed for producing very superior grindstones; it is only occasionally wrought, and that to a trifling extent. Neither coal nor limestone has hitherto been found in this parish. There are some faint indications of the latter mineral, and many believe that the former might also be found. This is, indeed, not improbable, when we survey the geological map of the kingdom. The same coal-field in all probability extends from the English side to Sanquhar. This, I am informed, was the opinion of an eminent engineer; but it is right to add, that he also conceived, from the nature of the dip, that the mineral was so deeply buried in the centre of the bed, that it would be in vain to hope that it could be worked to advantage. A good deal of land has been reclaimed from the Lochar moss, and the operations of the husbandman have disinterred many massy roots of oak, which for centuries had been buried under a stratum of peat twelve feet deep. Below the mossy stratum, sea sand mixed with clay and shells may, in many places, be recognized.

Canoes, similar to those used by the North American savages, when first visited by Europeans, have been found in this vicinity. Coins of different dates, some as old as the time of Edward I., have been found in the neighbourhood of the church, and in other places. The soil is in general a light loam, and what is rather uncommon, the worst soil is generally in the valleys. There is a considerable portion of peaty soil; but where the situation admits of draining at a moderate expense, by a liberal application of lime, it is rendered tolerably productive.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Eminent Men.*—Dr John Hutton, first Physician to Queen Anne, was a native of this parish. He was originally “a herd-boy” to the Episcopalian minister of Caerlaverock. The clergyman, perceiving his superior talents, generously promoted his education, and fanned his youthful ambition. Hutton directed his attention to the science of medicine. He was fortunately the nearest surgeon at hand when the Princess of Orange met with a fall from her horse in Holland. His services were put in requisition, and

exerted successfully both for himself and the royal princess. His fortune was now secured, but he did not forget the scene of his boyish days, and first humble avocation. At his own expense, he built a manse for the minister, bequeathed for charitable purposes L. 1000 Sterling to this parish, and also left a valuable library to the presbytery of Dumfries. This library originally contained the identical prayer-book which was used by the unfortunate King Charles when on the scaffold. It is much to be regretted that this interesting volume is now amissing.

*Land-owners.*—There are only four landed proprietors, viz. the Rev. Alexander Houston Douglas, Esq. of Bawds; Robert Thorburn, Esq. of Kelton; James Connel, Esq. of Conheath; and William Constable Maxwell, Esq. of Nithsdale, to whom the whole parish, with the exception of about 600 acres, belongs. Unfortunately for us, this gentleman has a much finer property in England, where he resides. He enjoys at present the honour of being High Sheriff of Yorkshire. Our only resident heritor is Mr Connel of Conheath. This gentleman does not disdain the ordinary duties of the eldership. Happy would it be for Scotland, as well as for themselves, did her gentry more generally show such attachment to the venerable institutions of our church.

*Parochial Registers.*—These seem to have been kept, sometimes with more, sometimes with less accuracy.

*Antiquities.*—The castle of Caerlaverock forms to the antiquary the most prominent object of interest. This venerable pile, one of the most magnificent of its kind, was formerly, before the invention of gunpowder, a place of immense strength, though destitute of natural bulwarks. It lies near the shores of the Solway. Its foundation is not many feet above high water-mark, and it has neither rapid river nor lofty rock to aid the resources of art. Its form is uncommon, being triangular. It is surrounded by a double moat, and when this difficulty had been vanquished by the prowess of the assailants, portcullis after portcullis, to the number at least of three, presented a barrier to their farther progress. Connected with this, we may notice the still visible remains of a plan for discharging a torrent of molten lead on the heads of the besiegers. From this, we may form some idea of the mode of warfare, and the consequent methods of defence adopted and practised among our fathers. Their object was to render their abodes inaccessible, except under peril of life, to all but the formally invited guest. In this respect, there is now a most important and salutary change.

Our object, now, is not to fortify our gates, but to render them accessible to all. Caerlaverock Castle will be found amply and faithfully described in many works. A pretty full account of it has been lately given in the Picture of Dumfries by Mr M'Diarmid, and formerly by Grose, Pennant, and others, to which the reader is referred. This castle has stood several sieges; but to take notice of all these would be inconsistent with the object of this work. We find, according to Grose, that after the siege by Cromwell, the castle contained eighty-six beds, forty carpets, and a library worth L. 200, which enables us to form some idea of its ancient splendour. The *fleurs-de-lis*, conspicuous on the windows of the banqueting hall, are a proof of the intimacy which formerly existed between France and Scotland. In the reign of Edward I., Caerlaverock sustained its most formidable siege. The whole army of that distinguished warrior was drawn out for two days against it before it surrendered. The length of time was not remarkable; but it is worthy of being recorded, that the defendants were only sixty in number. The discovery of this circumstance, it is said, occasioned no small surprise among the troops of Edward.

### III.—POPULATION.

In 1755 the population of the parish was	-	-	784
1777 there were 449 males and 553 females, in all	-	-	902
1791 there were 454 males and 501 females, in all	-	-	955
1811,	.	.	1170
1821,	.	.	1206
1831,	.	.	1271

The present population is about 1300. The increase is in a great measure owing to the establishment of Glencaple quay, for the accommodation of such vessels as cannot ascend higher up the Nith. From this quay also, for several years, a steamer has run to Liverpool:—the “Nithsdale,” a splendid vessel, which commenced plying this season, accomplishes her voyage in one tide. On sailing days, Glencaple is visited by upwards of thirty vehicles filled with intending passengers and friends. There is also another cause which probably has produced some increase in the population. The extensive provision which is made for the poor, renders it a desirable object for the labouring-classes from other parishes, to acquire a residence in this.

The number of families in the parish,	.	.	.	272
chiefly employed in agriculture,	.	.	.	90
in trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	.	.	.	76

The number of births from 12th August 1833 to 12th August 1834 is 33. The number of deaths for the same period is 14,

but they are only registered when the interment takes place in the parish churchyard. No distinction in the register having been made as to marriages, where the parties settled in the parish, and those where one of the parties left the place and took up a residence in another,—no satisfactory return as to marriages can be made.

*Character of the People.*—The moral character of the people is decidedly good, partly owing to our abundant supply of schools, by which the benefits of education are extended to all, the children of the poor being taught gratis; and partly to the want of alehouses, of which there is not one in the parish except at the shore, where, on account of the shipping, it seems indispensable. Poaching was, at one time, extensively practised in the parish, though not much by the inhabitants. Now that game is all but absolutely extirpated, poaching of course has ceased. Smuggling also existed to a very great extent about fifty years ago,—now it is unknown.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—The following information has been kindly communicated by the factor of the principal proprietor and three of the most intelligent farmers.

The total number of acres, Scotch measure, is 4640. Mr Maxwell's property consists of 3972 acres, which is let at L. 3930, 10s. so that L. 41, 10s. are wanting to make the rent L. 1 per acre. Judging of the rest of the parish by this estimate, the rent may be stated at L. 1 per acre to a fraction.

	<i>Imperial acres.</i>	
	A.	R. F.
Of the whole parish there are in wood,	126	0 18
moss and moor,	75	2 27
meadow,	37	3 13
marsh,	252	0 37
Number of acres arable,	5323	0 13

A considerable quantity of ground was some years ago planted on Conheath, by J. Connel, Esq. and the plantations are now thriving and remunerative; but it does not appear that trees generally attain to a great size in this parish, unless in extensive plantations, or on spots peculiarly sheltered.

*Rent of Land.*—The average rent of land in the parish may be stated at L. 1 per acre.

*Live-stock.*—The Galloway breed of cattle is the favourite one, and only a few Ayrshire cows are kept. The Leicester breed of sheep is the one chiefly attended to, the enclosures not being sufficiently strong for the wild black-faced or Highland variety.

*Husbandry.*—The rotation of crops generally pursued is, 1st, oats; 2d, potatoes or turnip; 3d, oats, barley, or wheat, according to the nature of the soil; 4th, hay; 5th, pasture, then oats again. Fallow is seldom resorted to except in the low flats, where the wetness of the soil renders this process necessary for the extirpation of weeds. All the leases on Mr Maxwell's estate are for fifteen years. A term of nineteen or twenty-one years would be more advantageous both for landlord and tenant. A great number of the farm-buildings has of late been substantially rebuilt; if there be any defect in these, the out-houses perhaps are not sufficiently extensive. The greatest improvement in agriculture in this parish is the introduction of bone manure, and the consequent extended and extending culture of turnips. Another stimulus is given by steam navigation, which enables the farmer to transport his sheep, fattened on the turnip crop, to Liverpool, at the rate of 1s. a head. A great obstacle to the improvement of the meadow land on the banks of the Lochar, not only in this but also in neighbouring parishes, consists in the keeping up of a paltry mill, which yields only a rent of about L. 20 per annum. The "weir" of this mill raises the water in the Lochar for miles in its serpentine course. Were this obstruction removed, and the course of the Lochar straightened and widened, many acres which at present lie waste, would be submitted to the plough, whilst, with regard to such places as are occasionally under cultivation, the farmer would not run the risk of having the produce of the year washed away or rotted on the ground by the autumnal floods.\*

*Quarry.*—There are no mines of any description in the parish, and only one freestone quarry, which is wrought. The rent of the quarry is L. 8; the value of the produce L. 100.

*Fisheries, &c.*—Pike, eel, and roaches, abound in the Lochar. Excellent flounders are caught in the Nith; but the only fishery of any importance is that of salmon. These continue to be taken in small quantities by the "*liester*." Stake-nets were erected many years ago, but the right to do so was lately disputed, and an interdict passed by the Court of Session. Upon an appeal, however, the interdict has been lately removed, and it is to be hoped, that, both for the interests of the parish and the public at large, the decision of the Court will be finally reversed. The rent of the salmon fishing is about L. 30; the produce above L. 100 in value when

\* This view is also adopted by other writers in this work; as will be seen by referring to the accounts of Torthorwald and other neighbouring parishes.

sold. About L. 40 yearly may be received from the sale of white fish, of which flounders are the chief.

*Produce.*—It is not easy to give an accurate account of farm produce. The produce of the land in corn and cattle may be estimated as being upon the whole equal at least to that of arable land in Scotland on an average. The rearing of pigs in this and the neighbouring parishes is carried to a greater extent than common;—almost every cottar keeps a pig, which enables him to pay his rent, and also furnishes him with manure for potatoes.

1450 Scots acres, white crop, at an average of wheat, barley, and oats, in the proportions raised in the parish, at L. 4, 4s. per acre,	L. 6090	0	0
870 do. green crop, at L. 4, 5s. per acre, on an average of potatoes and turnip, and allowance made for the small quantity of bare fallow,	3697	10	0
435 do. sown with grass-seeds, and cut for hay, 120 stones at 5d. per stone to the acre, or at L. 2, 10s.	1087	10	0
435 do. sown out and depastured, 1st year at 15s. per acre,	326	5	0
1260 do. depastured for 2 or more years at 15s. over head (including 100 acres of marsh land,)	945	0	0
30 do. meadow, at L. 1, 5s. per acre,	37	10	0
60 do. moss and moor, at 2s. 6d. per acre,	7	10	0
100 do. wood, at L. 3 per acre,*	300	0	0
<b>Total produce in grain, &amp;c.</b>	<b>L. 12,491</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>

The real rent is L. 4650, 10s. and assuming that for every L. 100 of rent 6 calves are reared and sold when one year old, the number will be 279 one year olds, which at L. 3 a-head, will yield L. 837 0 0  
8 pigs for every L. 100 of rent,—in all, 372 at L. 2 a-head, will give 744 0 0

Amount of live stock raised,	L. 1581	0	0
Bring forward grain, &c.	12491	5	0
<b>Amount of agricultural produce properly so called,</b>	<b>L. 14,072</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>
Amount of white fish, chiefly flounders,	L. 40	0	0
salmon,	100	0	0
Quarry,	100	0	0
		240	0
<b>Total produce,</b>	<b>L. 14,312</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>

*Manufactures.*—There are no manufactures in this parish. Ship-building, however, is carried on to a small extent; and two vessels of about sixty tons burden may be annually launched.

*Navigation.*—For an account of the navigation the reader is referred to the statistics of Dumfries,—as Glencaple quay can only be considered a subsidiary port to that of Dumfries. Vessels bound for Dumfries, but unable from their burden to reach the place of their destination, here unload,—which furnishes employment for a number of carriers.

\* This is not the return of the periodical thinnings, but is calculated from what the plantations may be supposed to yield in the course of thirty years.

## V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

The nearest market-town is Dumfries, to which the inhabitants repair every Wednesday,—perhaps in greater numbers than is absolutely requisite. There are in Caerlaverock seven villages, viz. Greenmill, Bankend, Glenhowan, Shearington, Blackshaw, Glencaple, and Kelton. Most of these, however, are going to decay. Bankend, from its central situation in the parish, may probably continue; and Glencaple, from steam navigation, will likely increase. There are no turnpike, rail-roads, or canals in this parish.\*

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The situation of the church, although nearly at one extremity of the parish, cannot be greatly complained of,—no person having to travel much above three miles to it. It is almost exactly five and a-half miles from Dumfries, and within three minutes walk of the manse. It was built in 1781. The walls are very substantial, and the form is in good proportion. It has one gallery in front, and it would admit of two additional side galleries, which, if erected, would amply accommodate all the population that will likely accumulate for years to come. The walls are liable to damp, the floor is not laid, and the passages are also very narrow; and altogether the interior of the church would require to be remodelled. It affords accommodation for about 470, and no rents are charged for any of the sittings.

The manse was built A. D. 1708, not by the heritors, but by Dr Hutton. Since the date of its erection, it has been repaired more than once, partly at the expense of the Hutton Bequest, partly at that of the late incumbent, and partly at that of the heritors. When the last Statistical Account was compiled, my predecessor writes, “it is yet in decent condition;” and as houses do not improve by age, the writer regrets to state that he cannot say much in its praise. A little was done in repairs by the heritors three years ago; but it continues excessively damp, and, though not very deficient as to the number of apartments, it is very inconvenient as

\* During spring-tides, and particularly when impelled by a strong south-westerly, the Solway rises with prodigious rapidity. A loud booming noise indicates its approach, and is distinguishable at the distance of several miles. At Caerlaverock and Glencaple, where it enters the Nith, the scene is singularly grand and imposing; and it is beautiful to see a mighty volume of water advancing foam-crested, and with a degree of rapidity which, were the race a long one, would outmatch the speed of the swiftest horses. The tide-head, as it is called, is often from four to six feet high, chafed into spray, with a mighty trough of bluer water behind, swelling in some places into little hills, and in others scooped into tiny valleys, which, when sun-lit, form a brilliant picture of themselves. From the tide head proceed two huge jets of water, which run, roaring along, searching the banks on either side, the antennæ, as it were, which the ocean puts forth, and by which it feels its way when confined within narrow limits.”—*M<sup>r</sup> Diarmid's Picture of Dumfries*, p. 15.



to their relative situation and size. The office-houses are in a still worse condition; some of them, indeed, give obvious indications that they will soon be numbered among "the things that were." The glebe, including manse, office-houses, and garden, is 19 acres, 1 rood, 23 falls Scotch measure in extent. It is of excellent quality, although part of it is liable to be flooded by the Lochar. The stipend is L. 177, 5s. 9½d. in money, and a teind of fish. It is said, the teinds are not fully exhausted; but the addition is so very trifling, that the present incumbent has never thought it worth while to inquire into the matter. The stipend is all paid in money. The late incumbent compounded with the proprietor, and for the sum of L. 5 Sterling per annum gave up all right to the teind of fish. Should the decision of the Court of Session, to which allusion has been formerly made, be finally reversed, and the fishing by stake-nets let on a lease, the rights of the clergyman will be worth something considerable, perhaps L. 30 per annum. The possibility of a law-suit occurring has hitherto prevented any operations requiring much outlay of capital; and, of course, the fishing has not yielded what it otherwise would have done, or may do. It is proper to state, that the point in dispute is,—where the river Nith terminates and the Solway Frith commences.

We have no place of worship of any description, except the parish church. About two years ago a Sabbath school was instituted by the present incumbent, in which he officiates as teacher. Another Sabbath school is also taught by Mr M'William at Blackshaw. Almost all the inhabitants attend the Established Church. Of late, however, a few individuals, who had taken umbrage at the conduct of the session with regard to Dr Hutton's mortification, have employed the occasional services of a Dissenting preacher, who officiates in the upper room of a tavern. There are three or four Roman Catholics, and as many regular hearers in Mr Clyde's Dissenting chapel in Dumfries. Divine service is well attended in the parish church, and the respectful demeanour of the congregation during its performance has been the subject of gratifying remark to all who have been called to officiate in the pulpit. The number of communicants is above 420. There have been two collections in the parish church during the last eighteen months,—the first for the Scottish Missionary Society, when nearly L. 4 was raised; and the other for the India Mission, when the collection did not exceed L. 3; but unfortunately the weather was at the time very unfavourable.

*Education.*—There are three schools in the parish. The number of scholars amounts nearly to 200. The parochial teacher has the maximum salary, and L. 40 per annum from the Hutton bequest. A considerable number of young men from the neighbourhood and also from England board with Mr Hill, the present parochial teacher; and two assistants are kept in his school. Under his auspices, this establishment has acquired considerable celebrity as a commercial academy. The other two schools are situated at the extreme ends of the parish—the parochial one being central. They are supported out of the Hutton bequest and other mortifications, of which some account will afterwards be given. The present teachers, Messrs M'William and Beattie, are both very respectable men, and deserving of much better situations. Each receives L. 20 per annum, but the school fees are low, and not well paid in any of the three schools. The ordinary branches are taught, with the addition of French, Greek, Latin, and the higher branches of mathematics in the parish school. The people are fully alive to the advantages of education, and none are ignorant of the arts of reading, writing, and common arithmetic. No additional schools seem to be required, although it has been found necessary to enlarge the dimensions of the parochial school. This operation is now in progress.

*Library.*—There is a parochial library, which was instituted two years ago by the present incumbent. It has been supported hitherto by two grants of L. 10 each from the Hutton bequest; one collection in the church; and the annual payment of 1s. from each reader. The number of volumes exceeds 200\*.

*Poor.*—The number of persons receiving parochial aid is about 70. These receive from L. 1, 10s. to L. 7 yearly. The division is made twice a-year; but some are of opinion, that a monthly division would be more beneficial to the poor themselves. A few pounds appear a great sum to a very poor person; hence,

\* Dr Hutton's deed of mortification provides that part of the surplus revenue shall be devoted to "the buying of Bibles, with other pious and religious books, for the use of such poor as are not able to purchase the same." It occurred to the writer that this might be fairly construed into authority for instituting and supporting a parish library. A query to this effect was therefore distinctly put to counsel, and the writer felt much pleasure in finding the following remark in the Opinion of the Solicitor-General, Mr Cockburn, with which Mr Cuninghame, the present Solicitor-General, agrees. "In the first place, they," viz. the trustees "may make the best, and best managed parish library in Scotland." English counsel is not so clear as to the power of the trustees on this point without the authority of a court,—at least till the other objects of the charity have been fully attended to; but, of course, the trustees would not think of doing so, until all the objects specified by Dr Hutton had been duly cared for.

petty debts are contracted without due calculation, and the assistance given is frequently more than mortgaged. The amount of collections in the church is about L. 18 per annum; but the great source of parochial relief is derived from the **Hutton bequest**. In 1708, Dr Hutton mortified L. 900, for pious and educational purposes, and L. 100 was afterwards added to defray the expenses of management; which by the deed of mortification is intrusted to the session of the parish, whose accounts are to be annually audited by the presbytery of the bounds. The whole sum of L. 1000, soon after it came into the hands of the session, was laid out in the purchase of the barony of Barcoly, in the parish of Colvend, which now yields an annual rent of nearly L. 400 per annum. The parish afterwards received L. 310 more in donations from different persons, the whole of which was subsequently laid out in the improvement of Barcoly. The annual income of the parish is thus expended: to the grammar-school at Bankend, L. 40; to the English school at Blackshaw, L. 20; to ditto at Highmains, L. 20; to the maintenance of five poor boys as bursars at the school of Bankend, each of whom receive annually L. 3, 4s. 6d. for four years, L. 16, 2s. 6d.; privately distributed in terms of a donation, L. 2; publicly at two different times, L. 160; to a superannuated teacher, L. 15.

Formerly the whole of the surplus revenue was given to the poor. About two years ago, old complaints, to which all the previous ministers of the parish had been much exposed, were revived as to the management of the session. Upon this, the present incumbent resolved to place himself under legal advice. The session accordingly procured the professional opinions of Mr Cockburn, then Solicitor-General, and Mr John Cuninghame. Their opinions not entirely coinciding, and such endowments being better understood in England, Mr Russell of the Chancery Bar was also consulted. These gentlemen all agree in commending the general management of the present trustees, as well as of their predecessors; of the propriety of which, the simple statement, that L. 1310, the amount of the different mortifications, now yields an annual income of almost L. 400, is of itself a sufficient proof. They, however, condemned the indiscriminate mode in which the poor had been provided for. Indeed, it is obvious, that, by relieving all the poor of the parish, the bequests have been not so much a boon to the poor as to the heritors. There being a special clause in Dr Hutton's deed of mortification, limiting the charity to those born

in the parish, the session have lately struck off all the "exsterns" \* from the list, in consequence of which the heritors have had to assess themselves rather heavily. It is certainly not a little singular that, in a country parish, with a population not exceeding 1300, and with an income of above L. 400 a-year (including the collections at church) for behoof of schools and the poor, an assessment should be necessary; yet it is not to be wondered at, since the Hutton bequest, as formerly conducted, acted as a bounty upon pauperism. Our surplus revenue for the last half year, as well as for the year to come, will be nearly exhausted in defraying legal expenses—making an addition to the school at Bankend—and in executing necessary repairs on the farm-buildings on the estate of Barclay. This estate is divided into eighteen farms. As several of the houses are old, and as the property, though not susceptible of much improvement by the plough, yet contains many acres well adapted for plantation, there is a channel provided for our surplus revenue for some time to come. As any delay in these improvements must be injurious to the trust, it is desirable that they should be speedily carried into effect. When completed, however, there will be a large and constantly increasing revenue, for the application of which the trustees will be under the necessity of having recourse to the Supreme Court for extended powers. Unfortunately, in some points, the power of the trustees is rather limited. The positive terms of the deed are inconsistent with its spirit, from the altered state of society, and from the circumstance of the founder never having, in all probability, contemplated such an increase of revenue. By the deed, it is provided, that there shall be two minor schools—but this would be impossible, were the terms of the deed strictly adhered to, which limits the salaries of the masters to L. 1, 10s. The trustees have gradually advanced these salaries to the amount already stated. It would be desirable to increase them still more; but to do this, the authority of a court must be had. With regard to provisions for the poor, there is much truth in the remarks of Dr M'Morrine contained in a note, † subjoined to the former Statistical

\* This term is employed by Dr Hutton in his deed of mortification, to denote them, who, although resident, have not been born in the parish.

† "If the situation, circumstances, and manners of the inhabitants of Caerlaverock are considered, it should seem that a fourth part of the sum allotted to the support of the poor might be sufficient for all the purposes of real and useful charity. And, indeed, an attentive observer will reckon it a matter of doubt, whether the greatness of the parish funds be productive of most good or evil. The moralist has some cause to complain, that it dries up the sources of private charity, and renders the poorer people less willing to assist their old and needy relations. These they seem sometimes disposed to abandon to the care of the session, who cannot, by the small allowance they

Account. The management of the fund has not become easier—but, on the contrary, as may easily be supposed, is the source of much annoyance to the minister and session. Still it is pleasant to contemplate the good that may be done by adopting a system of judicious rigour. Those whose poverty has been the result of early profligacy must not be starved into crime; but they must not be put on an equal footing with the temperate and industrious, whose poverty has been caused by old age, sickness, or misfortune. The trustees are furnished with ample and unquestionable powers to observe this distinction. They are left to the uncontrolled exercise of their conscience in selecting the objects of charity, and the increasing revenue will enable them to bestow a bounty upon virtue and industry, when overtaken by poverty.

*Fuel, &c.*—Peat is the fuel most commonly used, but such farmers as live at a greater distance from the moss than a mile, would perhaps employ their men and horses more profitably in summer-fallowing their land than in leading peats. A cart-load of coals may be had at the shore for 7s. Lime is occasionally brought from Cumberland in sloops, but is more frequently carted from Kellhead, a distance of ten miles.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Having already adverted to the “Weir” at Bankend mill, it is right to state, that surveys have lately been made with the view of

bestow, make up to them the want of that tender assiduity, which proves the cordial of age and poverty, and which natural affection alone can administer. The farmer with still greater reason complains, that the idea of a plentiful fund established for their support fills the parish in spite of every effort to prevent it, with the idle, infirm, and indolent; and renders it difficult for him to obtain day labourers. In fine, the poor themselves are far from being contented with the respective proportions of the funds; which are notwithstanding distributed with great impartiality. They are accustomed to lean too much to them, and to depend too little upon their own exertions. Nay, it is said, that a querulous habit is acquired, and even infirmity feigned, in order to excite compassion, and to obtain a more liberal share of charity. In the opposite scale of good, these effects of the funds are to be thrown: *first*, the support of convenient schools; *second*, that no distress arising from poverty occurs, which obtains not a prompt relief, without any expense to the inhabitants of the parish. But, though none of the poor of Caerlaverock are under the necessity of begging from house to house, the parish is as much as any other in this quarter, annoyed with vagrants, and as liberal to them. From these facts and observations, then, it may be inferred, “That distress and poverty multiply in proportion to those funds that are created to relieve them; for ‘where the carcase is, there the eagles will be gathered together;’ that the measures of charity ought to remain invisible, till the moment when it is necessary that they should be distributed; that in the country parishes of Scotland, in general, small, occasional, voluntary collections are sufficient; that the Legislature has no occasion to interfere to augment that stream which is already copious enough, though not always derived from its proper source or confined to its proper channel; in fine, that the establishment of a poors-rate would be not only unnecessary but hurtful, as it would tend to oppress the landholder without bringing relief to the poor.”

having it removed to pave the way for the improvement of the Lochar moss. It is hoped, that these will lead to more solid advantages than have accrued from former surveys. A very able one was made by Smeaton in the year 1754; but, from some cause or other, it evaporated in speculation. It is also in contemplation, to form a road through the moss between Glencaple quay and the Annan road, where it passes Mousewald kirk. Except about a mile near Caerlaverock manse, and a small rise on the Mousewald side of about half a mile, the rest of the road would be a dead level. The execution of this projected improvement would be of great advantage to Caerlaverock, and the country on the Mousewald side, more especially as a wooden jetty is projected, lower down the Nith, for the benefit of the steamers, and other vessels, which, from their burden, cannot, at all states of the tide, make Glencaple quay. The expense of this would be about L. 200, and it is likely to be soon effected. The mail between Dumfries and Annan used formerly to pass through this parish by Bankend. The road, so far as it lies in this parish, is still tolerably good, and has lately received considerable repairs; but after it enters Ruthwell, all traces of a road have been nearly obliterated by the invasions of the Solway. Were a new road made from Bankend bridge to Annan, and the other improvements alluded to also executed, we would have little to complain of, in respect of roads. The road to Dumfries from Glencaple, which runs along the banks of the Nith, is nearly level, and in tolerable repair.

*October 1835.*

## PARISH OF MIDDLEBIE.

PRESBYTERY OF ANNAN, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.

THE REV. RICHARD NIVISON, MINISTER.

---

### L.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THE name of this parish appears to be derived from the Saxon word *bee*, which signifies a station, and is supposed to have reference to one of the finest remains of a Roman camp in the vicinity of the church;—the word *middle* being prefixed in order to distinguish it from two other Roman stations, each about ten miles distant, in opposite directions,—Netherbie in Cumberland, and Upperbie in Eskdalemuir.

*Extent and Boundaries.*—Consisting of three united parishes, Middlebie, Pennersaugh, and Carruthers, this parish is 9 miles long, and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  broad, and contains about 40 square miles. It is bounded by the parishes of Hoddam, Annan, Kirkpatrick-Fleming, Half-Morton, Canobie, Langholm, and Tundergarth; and occasionally intersecting and intersected by some of these, it exhibits an extremely irregular figure.

*Topographical Appearances, &c.*—While it is generally arable, possessing a surface variegated with hill and dale, it is chiefly wild and mountainous towards the east and north-east, and may, indeed, be considered as forming an intermediate link betwixt the agricultural district of Annandale and the pastoral district of Eskdale. The westerly winds chiefly prevail in this parish, and are often accompanied by long and severe rains; hence the atmosphere is generally moist, and not unfrequently produces fevers, consumptions, and lasting rheumatic affections.

Though we have amongst us nothing that can be dignified by the name of rivers or lakes, we have numerous springs of the purest water, unmixed with any mineral ingredient, and several rivulets or burns, which arise from our hills and discharge themselves into the Frith of Solway or the river Annan.

*Mineralogy.*—The rocks which are most common in the parish are sandstone and limestone. So much, indeed, does this last abound, that it may be called one of our staple commodities, and

being carried to a great distance for the purpose of manure, has been mainly instrumental in promoting the agricultural improvements of this part of the country. Amidst the strata of limestone, are sometimes found, in a state of petrification, organic remains of the animal kingdom. It is generally supposed, that coal exists at a considerable depth below the surface, and attempts have been made in order to discover and work it, but as yet unsuccessfully, though not without such appearances as justify high expectations.

*Soils, &c.*—There is a great variety of soils in the parish, and sometimes at a small distance from each other. A clayey soil, however, mostly prevails, though gravel and loam are also not unfrequently to be found. The vegetable produce corresponds to this variety. In every farm, oats, barley, and potatoes are to be found. Wheat has been introduced of late years into several farms, whose soil is more congenial to it, and turnip husbandry is making a gradual but steady progress. Besides rye-grass, which is universally cultivated, and yields an exuberant produce, we have in almost all parts of the parish natural or bog-hay not only sufficient for our own consumption, but also for exportation into other parishes. In the more mountainous parts, the soil is best adapted for sheep pasture, and accordingly we have many excellent farms of this description, which yield very handsome rents to the proprietors.

The Ayrshire and Galloway breed of cows are generally preferred, the former of which are considered as the best milkers, and therefore exclusively graze our dairy farms. So common is the hog, that it is to be found in almost every cottage, and hence great quantities of bacon are annually exported to Newcastle. Many young oxen are reared in our pastures, and sold in the English markets.

In addition to the more common culinary plants, which are the natural produce of the soil, we have in our ravines a very rare species vulgarly called *Hart's-tongue*, which has been highly esteemed for medicinal purposes.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Eminent Men, &c.*—This parish has been long celebrated for its families of the name of *Bell*,—so much so that the *Bells* of Middlebie became a common expression in Dumfries-shire; and many most celebrated individuals of this name, in various departments of society, may be traced to an original connection with our parochial district. These families have mostly now become extinct in the parish; but the prevalence of their name in a former age is testified by the figure of a *bell* found on a great proportion of our grave-stones.



The well known tragical story of fair Helen of Kirkconnel Lee is associated with one of the *Bells* of Blacket House in this parish. She was loved by Bell, but favoured the pretensions of another. The former having conceived the purpose of murdering his more fortunate rival, and knowing the accustomed resort of the two lovers on the banks of the Kirtle, concealed himself amidst the adjoining wood, and watched his opportunity. Fair Helen discovered him in the act of levelling his piece, and rushing betwixt the murderer and his victim, received the ball which was intended for her lover. The latter, after travelling to foreign lands, returned and died on the tomb of his beloved Helen, and their ashes are now mingled together in the romantic churchyard of Kirkconnel.

The late Dr Currie of Liverpool, the author of the *Life of Burns* and of several medical works, was educated at our parochial school. He was the son of one of my predecessors, the Rev. James Currie, who was a man distinguished by strength of judgment, delicacy of sentiment, and eminent talents, natural and acquired.—John Irvine, Esq. of Newbie, M. P., the head of one of the first mercantile houses in London, was connected with this parish in early life, and still takes a lively interest in many of its concerns.

*Land-owners.*—Our principal land-owners are, His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry; Sir G. F. Johnstone, Bart. of Westerhall; Sir Patrick Maxwell, Bart. of Springkell; and General Sharpe of Hoddam.

*Parochial Registers.*—These of every description have been kept very irregularly and carelessly, and most of them being written on small unbound papers, are now lost. The only register of baptisms which I can find, commences in 1744; but so imperfect is it, that a great proportion of them are omitted. I have now, however, taken this register under my own charge, and carefully attend to the insertion of the births as well as baptisms of every child whose parents belong to the Established Church. I am convinced, indeed, from observing the state of the parochial registers in this and other parishes, that, without a legislative appointment of a person with a suitable salary, all attempts to have them properly managed will prove ineffectual; nor can I help thinking that the ecclesiastical establishment of Scotland is deficient, in so far as there is no provision made for session-clerks, precentors, and beadles.

*Antiquities.*—The most prominent is the celebrated camp at Birrens, which, as well as the neighbouring one at Burnswark in

the parish of Hoddam, is considered as almost the most perfect remain of Roman grandeur now existing in Britain; the fossæ, aggeres, and prætorium, being quite distinct. Situated on the lands of His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry, I trust that it will long continue uneffaced by the hand of Gothic barbarism; and the more so, because there was originally another camp adjoining to it, which, being on the ground of a small proprietor, was dug up some years ago, and is now completely destroyed. In this last, there were found many splendid specimens of Roman antiquity, particularly large stones neatly cut and ornamented, with inscriptions perfectly legible; but most of them have been sold or given away, and none, I believe, exist in their native parish, except one erected in the neighbouring garden of Mr Irving of Burnfoot. Nor, in considering the subject of antiquities, can I pass over in silence the tower of Blacket House, still standing, though fast sinking into ruins, which, like several others in the neighbouring parishes, is supposed to be one of those forts of defence which were used in the wars betwixt the English and Scottish borderers.

### III.—POPULATION.

Population in 1755,	.	991
1785,	.	1356
1791,	.	1404
1811,	.	1683
1821,	.	1874
1831,	.	2107

This increase of population is to be ascribed to the operation of national improvement in general, and a more scientific agriculture in particular. Within these last twenty years, three flourishing villages have arisen amongst us, which bid fair to enlarge their bounds, and promote the progress of civilization. The manufacture of cloth is carried on to a considerable extent, and a ready demand is made for it in the neighbouring emporium of Carlisle. Commerce even sheds its blessings around us. In one of our villages an enterprising gentleman has attracted the employment of a great proportion of the surrounding population, and in particular deals in wool more extensively than any individual in the county. The number of persons residing in our villages is 579, and in the country part of the parish 1528.

Number of families in the parish,	.	.	.	423
chiefly employed in agriculture,	.	.	.	102
trade, manufacture, or handicraft,	.	.	.	112
unmarried men, bachelors or widowers, upwards of 50 years of age,	.	.	.	23
women, including widows, upwards of 45,	.	.	.	39
The average number of births yearly, for the last 7 years,	.	.	.	64
The number of persons at present under 15 years of age,	.	.	.	840
upwards of 70,	.	.	.	60

We cannot boast of resident nobility, but may confidently do so of the number of our proprietors, of whom there are about 30 possessing land of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards.

There are 5 insane and fatuous persons; 2 blind; and 1 deaf and dumb amongst us.

During the three years from 1828 to 1831, there were in the parish 27 cases of illegitimate birth.

By means of an enlightened education and other circumstances, our people are rapidly improving in their general habits, and, though not void of a laudable ambition, are contented with their situation and circumstances, and enjoy the comforts and advantages of society. The desire of obtaining a good education prevails almost universally, and in many cases, the greatest privations are undergone by parents, in order to qualify one or two of their children for the learned professions. We may every day meet with persons occupying the lowest stations in society, who are acquainted with the events which are taking place in the political world, and can express their opinions upon them with correctness and propriety. Though vices of various descriptions prevail amongst us, I scarcely think that they are upon the increase, and while a decent outward profession of religion is everywhere displayed, an attentive observer may perceive religious sentiments secretly and gradually regulating their dispositions and conduct.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

##### *Agriculture and Rural Economy.*—

The total number of acres in this parish may be stated to be	24,900
Of which there are cultivated or occasionally in tillage,	5,367
uncultivated, waste, or in pasture,	17,356
capable of cultivation,	1,895
covered with wood, natural or planted,	282

Our plantations consist chiefly of fir of various kinds, and the management may be considered upon the whole as good.

*Rent of Land.*—The average annual rent of arable land is about 17s. per acre; of grazing L. 6 per ox or cow; and 6s. 6d. per sheep. The real rent of the parish is nearly L. 10,000.

*Rate of Wages.*—The rate of farm-labourers wages is from 1s. to 1s. 6d. and of those of artisans from 2s. to 2s. 6d. per day.

*Husbandry.*—The character of our husbandry may be termed good, and is still improving; and of late much waste land has been reclaimed by draining and enclosing. The general duration of leases is, at an average, about fifteen years; and the state of our farm-buildings and enclosures, though in many cases bad, has of late been much improved, and upon the farms of His

Grace the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry is of a superior order. In reference to this parish in general, it may be observed, that our improvements in agriculture, during the last twenty years, have been very extensive, and that our proprietors are anxious to give every encouragement to enterprising and substantial tenants. The want of capital is perhaps one of the greatest obstacles to agricultural improvement; and it is generally supposed that an abatement of rent would operate to the advantage of the landlord as well as of the tenant. I have already adverted to our quarries of lime, which exist in great abundance and excellent quality, and to these must in some degree be ascribed the advances made in husbandry, in spite of a soil, in many cases, very indifferent.

*Produce.*—The gross amount of raw produce raised in the parish is as follows :

Of grain of all kinds, &c.	L. 10,000
potatoes, turnips, &c.	3,000
hay, whether meadow, &c.	3,000
crops cultivated for the arts, &c.	800
land in pasture, &c.	6,000
gardens and orchards, &c.	800
the annual thinning, &c.	800
mines, whether coals, &c.	1,500
miscellaneous produce, &c.	100
	<hr/>
	L. 26,000

*Manufactures.*—Our chief manufacture is that of cotton or linen, which affords employment to 42 heads of families. There is no peculiarity in the mode of conducting it, but in consequence of the low prices which have of late prevailed, it has occupied those who engage in it about ten or twelve hours per day, and this, too, without affording any thing like a fair remuneration. It is to be hoped, however, that these privations are only temporary, and that the sober and contented portion of our population who experience them will ere long meet with that encouragement to which they are entitled.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-town, &c.*—There are three villages in this parish, Waterbeck, Eaglesfield, and Kittlebridge. The nearest market town is Ecclefechan. Our means of communication are extremely good, and we have daily mails from the south and north. The turnpike road betwixt London and Glasgow passes through the parish for two miles, and is frequented by the mail-coach and other carriages. Our parish roads, which were formerly almost impassable, have been improved to an incredible degree within the last twenty years, and, with our bridges, are now in excellent condition.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church is by no means central in this parish, being only half-a mile from the westerly end of it, adjoining to Hoddam, and seven or eight miles from its opposite extremity; but notwithstanding this, it is not so inconvenient to the great mass of the inhabitants as might be imagined, though gradually becoming more so from an increase of population in these districts, which were formerly less frequented. It was built in 1821, and affords accommodation to 700 persons; but, I regret to say, contains no free sittings. The manse was built about a century ago; but it has frequently been repaired since, with the addition of several apartments. The glebe is about 15 acres in extent, and L. 30 in value. The teinds are exhausted, and insufficient to cover the last augmentation given in 1806, though the parish is one of the most extensive and populous in the county, and the rental great and increasing. The amount of stipend, inclusive of communion elements, is L. 220, 9s. 7½d.

There is in this parish a Dissenting meeting-house of the Relief persuasion, the minister of which is paid by the seat rents, and receives, I understand, somewhere about L. 70 per annum. The number of families and of persons of all ages belonging to the Established Church is of the former, 232, and of the latter, 1160. The number of the same belonging to the Relief meeting-house is of the former, 129, and of the latter, 645. Divine service is in general attended extremely well in the Established Church, and is so, I believe, also in the meeting-house, though many of the sitters in this last place are not Dissenters, but take seats in it, merely in consequence of their distance from the parish church, while they receive sealing ordinances in the Establishment. The average number of our communicants is somewhere about 300. We have no societies for religious purposes established in the parish, but have occasionally collections in the church in behoof of the Assembly's funds for promoting Education in the Highlands, and propagating the Gospel in India,—each of which may be stated as amounting at an average to L. 4.

*Education.*—There are two parochial and four private schools in this parish, in the former of which are taught Greek, Latin, and French, with the more common branches of education. The maximum salary is divided betwixt the parochial teachers, and the fees of each amount to somewhere about L. 24 a year; but neither of them has a house. The average expense of education is about 9s. 6d. per annum. I cannot agree with some who think that the moral temperature of the community is lower than it was thir-

ty or forty years ago. We have less religious formality, but not less true religion.

*Library.*—There is a circulating library in this parish, but no other literary institutions of any kind.

*Friendly Society.*—We have also a Friendly society, established, I believe, about forty years ago, for affording relief to its members when they fall into distress, and a small sum for their decent interment when they are removed by death.

*Poor.*—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid is about 45, and the average sum allotted to each is about 1s. per week. Besides church collections, which amount to about L. 22 per annum, and which are altogether inadequate to the support of our poor, we have a regular assessment made twice a-year, amounting, at an average, to the annual sum of nearly L. 100. I am sorry to add, that the disposition among the poor to seek parochial relief is rapidly increasing, and is seldom or never considered as in the smallest degree degrading. In this and the other border parishes, the feelings of the English poor upon this subject are gradually gaining ground.

*Inns, &c.*—We have about ten small inns and alehouses in the parish, which have the worst effects upon the morals of the people.—Our fuel is peat and coal, the former of which is obtained in mosses, now nearly exhausted by the work of years; the latter is brought from the coal-pits of His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch, in the parish of Canobie, distant about twelve miles, and from the thriving town of Annan, about seven miles distant, whither it is conveyed over the Solway from Cumberland. The English coal is higher in price than that of Canobie, and costs about 8s. per ton, but is considered ultimately as economical as the other.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The more prominent variation betwixt the present state of this parish and that which existed at the time of the last Statistical Account, may be stated to be, a superior mode of husbandry,—an infinitely more improved state of the roads,—and more widely diffused and enlightened education; in short, a greater advancement in refinement,—and a greater enjoyment of worldly comforts. With pleasure I anticipate now a gradually increasing accession of parochial prosperity. Population is making rapid progress, and contributing its share in laying the foundation of national strength.

*Drawn up July 1831 — Revised October 1835.*

# PARISH OF DALTON.

PRESBYTERY OF LOCHMABEN, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.

THE REV. THOMAS H. THOMSON, MINISTER.

---

## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name and Boundaries.*—THE parish of Dalton, prior to the Reformation, was divided into two parishes, that of Meikle Dalton and Little Dalton; but, since their union in 1633, the church of Meikle Dalton is used by the parishioners of the united parishes as their place of worship,—the ruins of the church of Little Dalton now enclosing the burial ground of the descendants of the Carruthers of Holmains. The name of the parish is evidently Anglo-Saxon; *Dal-ton* or *Dal-dun*, signifying the fort in the dale. There are the remains, accordingly, of a fort on a hill in the immediate neighbourhood of the village of Dalton, at which village, in ancient times, the baronial courts were held. The parish is 6 miles in length from north to south, and 3 miles in breadth; its boundaries are, Lochmaben on the north, which intersects it; Mousewald on the west; Ruthwell on the south; Cummertrees and the river Annan on the east.

*Geology.*—Betwixt the Holmains and Almagill-hills, lies the vale of Little Dalton, in the north end of the parish. These hills are 500 feet above the level of the sea, and run from north to south. They are composed of transition rock of greywacke, which sometimes alternates with greywacke slate. The direction of the strata appears to be from east to west, and their dip to the north. The next class of rocks in the parish, in point of age and extent, is the independent coal formation, which lies in the hollow of the transition rocks, such as the reddish-brown-coloured sandstone on the banks of the Annan. In the south end of the parish, the grayish white sandstone, abounds with limestone of an inferior quality. The next formation is that of floetz trap, considered as the newest of the universal formations, because it rests on all the others. Of this formation, there are only individual links, such as greenstone and porphyritic amygdaloid. The manse of Dalton is founded upon the amygdaloid rock at its western ex-

tremity; from this point, it runs east as far as Langholm. The alluvial formations are very extensive, and consist chiefly of great masses of gravel and sand, which spread over the low lands of the parish, and are formed into ranges and groups of little hills. There is evidently no immediate agent in the neighbourhood which could have collected such immense quantities of matter, apparently the diluvium of the deluge. The sand and gravel cover the solid rocks, principally those of sandstone, and appear upon examination to be composed of the fragments of the various formations found in the vale of the Annan. In the high lands of the parish, the soil is chiefly composed of the waste and debris of the transition rocks, which is fertile; but many of these rocks are covered with common indurated clay and heath, and are barren. The transported soil on the banks of the river, being of a loamy nature, is rich and fertile; but that of an older date, composed of light gravel and sand, which in dry seasons is very unfavourable to vegetation, when moistened with frequent showers, is very fertile in the production of barley.

It has been supposed that the river Annan, at some remote period, instead of its present course, where it discharges itself into the Solway at a short distance from the town of Annan, followed a different course through this parish, running in a southern direction from the mansion-house of Dormont, through a long track of level meadow and peat-moss, and fell into the frith at a short distance from Cummertrees church, three miles west from Annan. It is along this line where the greatest quantity of the alluvial formations are deposited, which are strikingly illustrated in hills and ridges of gravel and sand. These evidently appear to have been carried out of the valley of the Annan by a mighty flood of waters, and deposited at the termination of the transition rocks, which enclose it to a great height. After the deluge, the valley of the Annan must have been a lake; but its waters bursting a passage through a transition rock at Dormont, (the present course of the Annan,) the valley has been drained of its waters, with the exception of a number of lakes in the adjoining parish of Lochmaben. During a flood, the river at Dormont, and for several miles along its course in a northern direction, lays the whole country under water; but were the landed proprietors interested to unite in deepening a very small portion of the bed of the river at Dormont, where it bursts through the transition rock, the beautiful holm lands along its course, with their luxuriant crops, would be preserved in safety.



At one period, it was proposed that a canal should be made through the level track of meadow and peat-moss in this parish, for the purpose of an inland navigation from the upper part of Annandale to the Solway Frith; but it is not likely that the measure will ever be executed. The height of the river at Dormont above the level of the sea is 160 feet.

*Fish, &c.*—The fish caught in the Annan at different periods of the season are the salmon, grilse, sea-trout, whiting, or herling. Thirty years ago, they were caught in great abundance; but since the stake-nets were placed at the mouth of the river in the Solway Frith, they have become very scarce, and unless some law is made for the farther removal of these nets, the fish will soon be extinct,—particularly as the landed proprietors along the course of the river reap no benefit, and therefore take no interest in preserving the breed during the winter, so that nearly all that get up in close time are speared. An act of Parliament was obtained in 1804 for protecting the fish in the Solway Frith from the 25th September to the 10th March, which is the forbidden time.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Parochial Registers.*—The kirk-session of Dalton have in their possession an old book of session records, from the 18th August 1723, to the 1st September 1766, which contains a correct statement of the poors' funds. The registration of baptisms is very incorrect; but from the year 1769 a correct register of marriages, births, and baptisms has been kept.

*Antiquities.*—The only ancient edifice is a tower at Holmains, formerly the seat of the Carruthers of Holmains, but now totally in ruins. It does not appear to have been a place of great strength. At a short distance towards the east, on the Almagill-hills, there is a beautiful old camp of a circular form, now named Range Castle. From the summit of the hill on which it is placed, there is a most commanding view, embracing the beautiful vale of the Annan, with the whole amphitheatre of the surrounding hills, the ancient castle of Robert Bruce, and the burgh of Lochmaben, with its numerous lakes. The camp is formed upon a transition rock of grey-wacke; its diameter is 102 yards; the ditch or fosse which surrounded the camp is 9 feet deep and 27 feet broad. It must have been a place of considerable strength, from the great inclination of the hill on its north and east sides. The lower part of the camp appears to have been separated from the upper by a rampart or wall made of stones taken from the fosse, many of which are in a vitrified state. This wall has been removed to build fences in the

neighbourhood. The diameter of the upper part of the camp is 54 yards, and the entrance to it is on the western side.

*Land-owners, &c.*—The chief land-owners in the parish are Mr Macrae of Holmains, and Mr Carruthers of Dormont.

*Modern Buildings.*—Of modern buildings the mansion-house of Rammerscales, built by the late Dr Mounsey, is very respectable. It is romantically elevated upon a mountain range, which commands the whole vale of the Annan, and surrounded with hanging wood kept in great perfection and beauty by the present proprietor Mr Bell. The residence of Mr Carruthers of Dormont, built in 1823, is, for elegance, solidity, and convenience, among the best in the county. Its situation is on the banks of the Annan, where it is enriched by a fertile lawn in front, and plantations laid out with great judgment and taste.

### III.—POPULATION.

The amount of the population in 1755, was	451
When the preceding Statistical Account was taken,	615
In 1801,	591
1811,	691
1821,	747
1831, 349 males, 381 females,	730
The yearly average of births for the last 7 years is	23
deaths,	7
marriages,	6
Number of unmarried men, bachelors, and widowers, upwards of 50 years of age,	15
women upwards of 45 years of age,	29
families	127
chiefly employed in agriculture,	56
trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	26
The average number of children in each family,	6
The number of inhabited houses,	123
houses uninhabited and building,	1
Fatuous persons, 1.	

During the last three years there have been three illegitimate births in the parish.

### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture and Rural Economy.*—The number of acres standard imperial measure in the parish is about 6753. Of these 600 never have been cultivated, and remain constantly waste or in pasture; and it is only to a small extent that any of this waste land could be added to the cultivated land of the parish;—not more than 200 acres, with a profitable application of capital, could be reclaimed. There is no land in the parish in the state of undivided common. The number of acres under wood is 517, and of these acres 190 are natural wood. The average rent of arable land per acre is about 12s.

*Rate of Wages.*—The wages of a farm-servant with victuals and bed, about L. 9 a-year, and that of a female, L. 5. The average

wages of a farm-labourer per day about 1s. 4d. The small quantity of sheep reared in the parish is of the Cheviot and Leicester breed; and of black-cattle, the Galloway.

*Husbandry.*—The general character of husbandry pursued, with respect to the practice of the farmers, is so various as to be incapable of exact description, but the following may be stated as the most common: 1st year, oats; 2d, potatoes or turnips; 3d, barley with grass seed; 4th, hay; 5th and 6th, pasture. Nearly all the lands occupied by farmers are let on leases for fifteen or nineteen years.

*Farm-Buildings and Fences.*—The state of farm-buildings has been very much improved during the last ten years; but the fences and enclosures are of the worst description; and though there have been many improvements in reclaiming and draining waste lands both by proprietor and tenant on some properties, there is still great scope for farther improvement.

*Produce.*—The average gross amount of raw produce raised in the parish, as nearly as that can be ascertained, is as follows:

Produce of grain of all kinds, whether cultivated for the food of man or the domestic animals,	L. 4500
Of potatoes, and turnips, &c. cultivated in the fields for food,	1500
Of hay, whether meadow or cultivated,	1000
Of crops cultivated for the arts, as flax,	20
Of land in pasture, rating it at L. 2, 10s. per cow or full-grown ox, grazed or that may be grazed for the season; 10s. per ewe or full-grown sheep, pastured or that may be pastured for the year,	3500
Of gardens and orchards,	100
Of the annual thinning and periodical felling of woods, plantations, and copse,	100
Of fisheries in the river,	5
Total yearly value of raw produce raised,	L. 10,725

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Markets, &c.*—There being no market-town in the parish, the nearest is that of Annan, at the distance of six miles, and Dumfries at nine miles. Annan is the port to which all the grain is taken, and where the barley in general is shipped to Liverpool. There is but one village in the parish, and its communications with the market-towns are very convenient, not only by the parish roads, but by the great turnpike road from Carlisle to Portpatrick, which runs through the south end of the parish.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The situation of the parish church is at the village of Dalton, and is very convenient, being placed in the centre of the parish. It was built in 1704, and at present it is not in the best state of repair. It accommodates about 300 persons. All the families in the parish, 127, (three excepted who are Seceders,) attend the Established Church; and of these 270 are communicants. The manse was built in 1806. The extent of the glebe is ten acres, and its value L. 10. The amount of the stipend is eight

chalders,—four of oats and four of barley, with L. 58, 6s. of money stipend.

*Education.*—There is only one parochial school, and the branches taught are, Latin, Greek, English, arithmetic, geography, mensuration, and algebra. The salary of the schoolmaster is L. 34, 4s. 3d. and the amount of school wages about L. 20. He has the legal accommodation.

*Poor.*—The number of persons receiving parochial aid is 12, and the average sum allotted to each per week is from 1s. 6d. to 2s.;—besides that many have their house rents paid at L. 1, 10s. per annum. It is to be feared that a disposition among the poor to refrain from seeking parochial relief is fast wearing out. The annual amount of contributions for their relief, arising from church collections, is about L. 25 per year, and what more has been required, the heritors have willingly given it.

*Inns, &c.*—There are two inns in the parish, but the effects of which upon the morals of the people are of the most degrading nature.

*Fuel.*—The fuel chiefly consumed consists of peat, which will soon be exhausted; but coals exported from England to the port of Annan are purchased at a moderate rate.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The more striking variations in the parish since the former Statistical Account was written, consist not only in an increase of population, but in the extent of cultivation, which the late war prices produced. There is also a great increase of black-cattle, horses, and particularly swine, which are reared in great numbers, and are what the farmer chiefly depends upon for his winter's rent. Of late years, they have not been so profitable, and like all other stock, fluctuating in prices. The parish is susceptible of great improvements in respect of husbandry. The soil in general being light and dry, is particularly adapted to the use of turnips, which might be eaten off with sheep to great advantage. Draining and proper attention to the fences, which are in a ruinous state, and the use of lime, which is to be obtained in the immediate neighbourhood, would make a mighty improvement on the face of the parish. The farms in general are over-rented, and for want of capital the farmer is unable to make improvements. The constant change of tenants since the peace in 1815, owing to the fluctuating state of the markets, has been the principal cause in general of the slowness of improvement, which can only be effected by a thriving and industrious people and by a steady state of things.

October 1835.

## PARISH OF LOCHMABEN.\*

PRESBYTERY OF LOCHMABEN, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.

THE REV. THOMAS MARJORIBANKS, MINISTER.

---

### L.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name, &c.*—THERE can be little doubt that Lochmaben derives its name from the number of lochs which surround it, although there is a tradition, that, in olden times, a nunnery was built upon a small island in one of the largest of these lakes; from which circumstance, persons conversant with the Gaelic language say,—Lochmaben signifies “Loch of the Maidens” or “Loch of the Fair.” The Scoto-Irish settlers called it Loch-ma'-ban, the lake in the white plain, because the Castle loch, near which Lochmaben is built, exhibits a white appearance, when contrasted with the black surface of the ridge which bounds it on the west. The town is most delightfully situated at a short distance from the banks of the Annan, verifying the old Scotch rhyme,—

“Lochmaben stands most beautiful,  
Near unto Annan side,  
In old times kings and princes there,  
For safety did abide.”

In viewing this ancient seat of kings from some rising ground on the west, it appears so completely surrounded with water, that a stranger would suppose it impossible to be entered without the aid of a boat.

*Boundaries.*—The parish is bounded on the north by Johnstone; on the east by Applegarth and Dryfsdale; on the south by Dalton; and on the west by Torthorwald and Tinwald. In length it extends 10 miles, and in breadth 3. Its contents are 10750 English acres, or 8546 Scotch, or 16 $\frac{3}{4}$  square miles. The landward part of the parish is valued on the stent roll at 6000 merks, and the burgh roods at 500, thus making the landward part L. 7337, 1s. 11d., and the burgh L. 1824, 7s. 1d., or the whole L. 9161, 9s.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The surface is in general plain

\* Drawn up, while the incumbency was vacant, by the Rev. John Gardiner, a native of Lochmaben.

and level, with a considerable rise to the west, which scarcely can be called hilly, as the whole of it is under the plough. The soil accordingly varies; that which lies along the banks of the rivers Annan, Æ, Kinnel, and Dryfe, is of rich alluvial loam, and capable of bearing crops of every description. In some of these fine holm lands, from the frequent deposits left by the overflowing of the rivers, the soil in many places measures nine feet in depth. To the westward, it is light, gravelly, and cold. The greater part of it, which formerly was the commony of the burgh, and was divided some years ago by a decret of the Court of Session, is now made arable, enclosed, and subdivided by hedge-rows and strips of planting. These properties vary in extent from five to thirty acres, and have good substantial houses, with suitable steadings built upon each of them. The only uncultivated portions of the parish are three separate parcels of moss, which are of great benefit to the people in supplying them with peat, which is the principal fuel,—no coal as yet having been found in the vale of Annandale.

From the situation of the greater part of the parish lying so low, and being nearly as it were surrounded with water, the climate very naturally may be supposed moist and unhealthy. This, however, is not the case, as there is no parish in the county more healthful, or where the inhabitants attain a greater age. The soil around the burgh is particularly dry, with a southern exposure. Snow lies only for a short time. The prevailing winds, which frequently blow with great violence, particularly in the spring, are from the north-east. The heaviest falls of rain come from the south and south-west. The average temperature during the year may be about 46 of Fahrenheit.

*Hydrography.*—The town and parish are abundantly supplied with water,—there being no less than nine lochs within its bounds, and four rivers passing through it in different directions. The parish is bounded from north to south by the Annan, and from west to east by the water of Æ, which falls into the Kinnel, near to the lands of Templand—which runs about a mile south, then takes a south-eastern direction, and joins the Annan, a short way beneath Applegarth church. About three-quarters of a mile farther south, the Dryfe, which separates a small portion of the parish from Dryfsdale, falls into the Annan about two hundred yards below the boat-house of Halleaths. There is one chalybeate spring, a mile west from the burgh, called the Physic Well, which some years ago was much resorted to by the inhabitants, on account of

its purgative qualities. There is also an abundant supply of spring water of the purest kind. The water of the lochs is used with perfect safety for culinary purposes during winter and spring. Families, however, prefer it at all seasons for washing, on account of its softness. There are five lochs in the parish of considerable size, viz. the Castle loch, which covers a surface of more than 200 acres; the Broomhill loch contains, 80; the Mill loch, 70; the Kirk-loch, 60; and the Hightae loch, 52. The depth (taken during winter) has been found in several of them to be 52 feet. Besides these five, there are four others of considerably less extent.

*Geology.*—The rocks found in this parish are all of secondary formation, and dip to the south. In the beds of the smaller rivers and burns, blocks of dark rolled whinstone are found, from which excellent curling-stones are made. The only quarry worked in the parish is of red sandstone. A very considerable portion of this rock is found in thin layers, which are easily separated, so that they are now much used in covering the roofs of houses, particularly of farm-steadings. The roof when properly put on looks very neat, though some objections are made against its weight, and tendency to draw damp in winter, which is injurious to the wood.

*Botany.*—All the common plants are found in this parish. Among the rarer aquatic plants, we may mention the white water-lily (*Nymphaea alba*), cat's tail or reed mace (*Typha angustifolia*), the reed (*Arundo Phragmites*), the great water horse-tail (*Equisetum fluviatile*), which grow abundantly in several of the lakes. The blaeberry (*Vaccinium Myrtillus*), and the cranberry (*V. Oxycoccus*), are common, particularly the latter. The small sloe tree (*Prunus spinosa*), and the hagberry (*P. Padus*), are found in the brakes and hedges. The deadly nightshade (*Atropa Belladonna*), among the ruins of the old castle. The oak, the ash, the plane, and the horse-chesnut, are of great size around the pleasure grounds of Halleaths, Elshieshields, and of the castle.

*Zoology.*—No wild animals of the class Mammalia are found in this parish, except such as are common to the neighbouring country. The fox is seen frequently, both in the woods of Halleaths and Elshieshields. The otter, though not common, has been found in the Annan near Halleaths, and in the Castle loch. The badger has entirely disappeared for many years. The pole-cat or fougart, the weasel, and the different species of rats are all common. The *Vespertilio altivolans* has never been seen flying about

any of the lochs, though observed by Sir William Jardine, Bart. upon the Annan.

*Fishes.*—It has been frequently stated that no fewer than fifteen distinct species of fish, fit for the table, have been found in the Castle loch. In enumerating the chief of these, we may mention the pike, the perch, the loch-trout, of which there are two species,—one weighing from twelve to fourteen pounds, the other from two to five pounds,—the bream, the roach, the skelly or chub, the green-back, the vendace, the eel, the loach or beardie, the minnow, and the banstickle. With the exception of the vendace, the bream, and green-back, the others are found in great abundance in the different lochs. Pike has been taken weighing from twenty-four to thirty-five pounds. It is most destructive to the other species, except the perch, which is protected by its powerful dorsal fin.

*The Vendace.*—The vendace is found nowhere in Scotland, except in the Castle loch of Lochmaben, though it is said that Sir William Jardine caught a few in the Mill loch, but whether it was the case or not, we have not learned. The oldest fishers in the town have frequently told us that they never knew a single instance of one being caught, except in the Castle loch.\* The vendace, it is said, derived its name from Vendois in France, and was brought to this country by one of the James's. This, however, is mere conjecture, and, from what we know of its habits, highly improbable,—because they die the moment they are either touched, or exposed to the air. This beautiful fish measures from four to six inches in length, and tapers gradually to the tail. When taken out of the water, it has a bright silvery-white appearance, with a slight tendency to a light blue along the back and part of the sides. In size, it resembles a small herring or par, but particularly the former, not only in the mouth and the external appearance, but also in the anatomical structure. Upon the top of the head, there is a very distinct shape of a heart, covered with a transparent substance of a brownish colour, resembling a

\* According to Mr Stewart, in his *Elements of Natural History*, the vendace belongs to a species which he calls the "*Salmo albula*," or the "*Juvangia*." "This species," he adds, "is found in Lochmaben, in Scotland, and nowhere else; and is said to have been carried thither from England in the time of Robert the Bruce. It is thickly covered with roundish, entire, black spotted imbricated scales of a greenish-brown colour, and white on the sides." From this description, it is evident that Mr Stewart had never seen a vendace, else he would have described it in a different manner. Of all the distinct species which this lake is said to contain, not one of them, so far as ever fell under our observation, will answer Mr Stewart's description. The perch has entire black spotted scales, but not imbricated; the perch, however, is as distinct from the vendace as the cod is from the salmon.



thin lamina of mica slate, through which the brain is visible. This particular mark proves it to be as yet a distinct and an undescribed species. Nothing is ever found visible to the naked eye in the stomach of the vendace. They are extremely delicate, and are allowed to be the most pleasing to the taste of all fish. The general mode of taking them is with a net, as there is no instance known of their having been caught either with bait or the artificial fly. The pike, with which this lake abounds, is their greatest enemy, as he is seldom taken in the neighbourhood of the particular places which they frequent without being found gorged with them.\*

The salmon was found formerly in great abundance in the Annan and its tributaries, but since the stake-nets were erected at the mouth of the river, they have greatly decreased. In addition, the salmon fry has many enemies, particularly the carrion crow, the water-ouzel, and the heron. The moment a bed of spawn is seen to spring up by any of these birds, not one of them is left. The sea-trout and the herling (*Salmo albus*) are both found in considerable numbers. They ascend the river sometimes so early as June, if the season has been wet and the river swollen. The par, about which so many disputes have arisen, is plentiful in all the rivers which communicate with the Annan.†

*Reptiles.*—The most dreaded is the adder (*Vipera communis*), which is very common, and generally seen in dry mosses and around the bottom of old turf dikes. The water newt, or eft, the common eft, (which is found in cellars and damp houses,) the frog and the toad are also common. The *Lacerta agilis* is frequently seen running with all its speed among dry mosses and heathery moors.

*Birds.*—The common species are all found in the parish. Among the more rare, I may mention the white owl (*Strix flam-*

\* Dr Knox, Lecturer upon Anatomy in Edinburgh, states that he has not only discovered the food of the vendace, but actually exhibited it some months ago before the members of the Royal Society, and offers suggestions for the stocking of the various lakes in Britain with this exquisite fish, pointing out first the necessity of locating its natural food, without which it cannot live. Allowing, however, that the space of some neighbouring lake could be covered with some of these invisible and "incredibly minute entomostraceous animals, which," the learned lecturer says, "constitute their food," we should still find a difficulty to transfer the fish, as every attempt to do so hitherto, though conducted with the greatest possible care and nicety, has failed.

† It has been stated as a fact, that the par is always found in rivers which salmon frequent. While in Morayshire last autumn, we made particular inquiry at the fishermen upon the Spey if they had ever seen the par; to our astonishment, each of them declared he never had. This must be considered as a very strong evidence that the par is a distinct species.

*mea.*) The water-ouzel (*Cinclus aquaticus*,) most destructive to the salmon fry, is very common about the lochs and the rivers. The missel-thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*) is found both at Halleaths and Elshieshields. The stone-chats are in great abundance on the Lochmaben moors. The golden-crested wren (*Regulus cristatus*,) the willow or silver-wren breed around Halleaths. The titmice are all common, except the long-tailed one, which I have only seen once in the garden at Elshieshields. The white and yellow wagtails are very common about the lakes. The different species of linnets are found in great abundance. The raven (*Corvus corax*) is occasionally seen by the sides of the lakes picking up the small fish that happen to come within his reach. The hooded-crow is seldom seen. The jay (*Garrulus glandarius*,) though not abundant, is found in the woods of Elshieshields. The goat-sucker (*Caprimulgus Europaeus*) is frequently seen at night-fall, and its nest has been found at Halleaths. The pheasant is frequently shot in the parish;—also the black-cock and grouse, which breed within a mile of the town. The quail (*Perdix Coturnix*,) and the butcher-bird (*Lanius collurio*,) have both been seen.

*Aquatic Birds.*—The heron breeds in great numbers at Halleaths,—the numerous lakes and streams in the neighbourhood supplying them with ample food. The heron, in this part of the country, is very seldom destroyed, from a belief that it devours the adder. The water-rail (*Rallus aquaticus*) is very abundant about the outlets from the lakes. The curlew (*Scolopax arquata*,) the lapwing (*Vanellus cristatus*,) the golden plover (*Charadrius plumbealis*,) the snipe (*Scolopax gallinago*,) and the woodcock (*S. rusticola*,) are all common, particularly the *S. gallinago*. The cormorant (*Pelecanus carbo*) is seen fishing in the Castle loch, or sitting upon some insulated spot. The wild-duck, the teal (*Anas crecca*,) and the coot (*Fulica atra*,) are all abundant in the Castle and Hightae lochs, around which the common wild duck breeds in great numbers. The kingfisher (*Alcedo ispida*,) a shy bird, is frequently seen upon the banks of the Annan and of the Æ. The swan and wild goose resort to the lochs in severe winters.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Robert Bruce, first King of Scotland, was born in the old castle situated between the Kirk and Castle lochs, which was the chief residence of the Bruces till the end of the thirteenth century.

The writer of this article is not aware that any person particularly distinguished in the arts and sciences, or in literature, claims this

parish as his birth-place. It may, however, be remarked, that there are at present six ordained clergymen in the Church of Scotland, two Dissenters enjoying livings, six licentiates, four parish school-masters, and seven surgeons who were educated at Lochmaben by one master, who is still pursuing his vocation, but, unfortunately for himself, not in the parish where he taught for many years with so much success.

*Land-owners.*—Within the burgh roods there are no fewer than 141 small proprietors, and in the landward part of the parish 106, making in whole 247, who pay stipend to the clergyman. The principal land-owners are Andrew Johnston, Esq. of Halleaths; John Dickson, Esq. of Elshieshields; Sir William Jardine, Bart. of Applegarth; William Murray, Esq. of Castlemains; The Most Noble Charles Marquis of Queensberry; John Brown, Esq. of Broad Chapel; John Maxwell, Esq. of Esbie; His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch; David Farish Junior, Esq. of Todhillmoore; and Sir James Broun, Bart. of Mayfield. Four only are resident,—Mr Dickson, Mr Brown, Sir James Broun, and Mr Farish.

*Parochial Registers.*—The earliest date of baptisms and marriages is 1765. These registers have been most carefully and regularly kept from the above date to the present time. In this parish, the Dissenters shew as much anxiety for the registration of their children as the members of the Established Church.

*Modern Buildings.*—The principal mansion-houses are Halleaths, Elshieshields, and Newmains.

*Castles.*—There is the site of an ancient castle close to the town, on a mound of considerable height, called the Castle-hill, which is surrounded by a deep moat and fosse. This castle was built in the twelfth century, and formed the chief residence of Robert Bruce, Lord of Annandale, previous to that family coming to the throne of Scotland. This noble family had two other seats in the Annandale district, one at Annan, the other at Hoddam, on the east bank of the river, with a large estate which continued in their possession long after they came to the Crown.

The other Castle of Lochmaben, which stands upon a peninsula on the south-east side of the Castle-loch, was by far the largest and strongest of any, either upon the English or Scotch borders; and before the invention of gunpowder was deemed impregnable. It was built by Robert Bruce, the first of that name, King of Scotland, towards the end of the thirteenth century. Tradition says that the stones of the old one were taken to build this, and the

place is pointed out where these stones were laid down, and carried across a portion of the loch to the present castle. This castle, including the out-works, covers nearly sixteen acres. It contains three courts strongly built with hewn stone. The walls in the few places where they are entire, measure twelve feet in thickness. It was surrounded by three deep fosses running from east to west, within which there was a bason built of stone of superior workmanship for holding the boats, and protecting them from the attacks of their enemies and the weather. In those days the principal entrance was by water, and from the ground being marshy around the castle for more than a mile, with a narrow neck of land leading to the outer fosse, must have rendered it not only a place of great strength, but also very difficult of access. It was preserved as a border fence till the union of the crowns. Before that time a garrison of 200 men was constantly kept in this castle, and the governor was maintained by very liberal provisions till the reign of James VI., when border hostilities ceased. Among the titles of the Marquis of Annandale, he assumed that of Constable or Hereditary Keeper of Lochmaben Castle. A salary of L. 300 Scots, with the exclusive fishings in the castle and mill lochs, with boats and nets, was given to the keeper. James VI., in 1612, granted to the corporation of Lochmaben the fishings of the six lakes near the town; but the present proprietor of Castlemains tried the legality of this grant before the Court of Session, and obtained a decret in absence, and now claims the exclusive right of the whole fishings in the Castle loch around which his property lies. The governor of the castle had also for the maintenance of the garrison what was called "a Lairdna Mairt," or "Lairdner Mairt cow," which was one of the best fat cows out of every parish in Annandale, and thirty-nine meadow geese and fastin e'ens hens. These were claimed by the Marquis of Annandale about a hundred years ago. The conversion of this claim was L. 20 Scots, which was uplifted out of thirty-three parishes, now reduced, by annexations at the Reformation, to twenty-one. Since that period, no demand for payment has been made. The castle was allowed to fall into ruins during the seventeenth century, and the only remaining part is the heart of the walls, from which the ashler work has been almost stripped off, and there are few houses in the neighbourhood in which some of the stones are not seen. The hewn stones were of red sandstone, and in all probability procured from the red stone quarry of Corncockle Moor, in the upper district of the parish. The lime

with which the heart of the walls was filled up, is as hard and firm as at the time when the castle was built,—the weather having no influence upon it whatever. In former times, there were a deer park and an oak forest of considerable extent around the castle.

*Spedlin's Tower.*—This old tower stands on the north of the parish, and was formerly the residence of the Jardines of Applegarth. It is strongly vaulted with walls of an immense thickness, flanked by round turrets at the angles. The entrance is on the north side, near the north-east angle, through a circular door, and has on each side a transverse loop-hole. Over the centre, at the top of the tower, is a square tablet containing the coat of arms of the Jardines, and the date 1605, probably the last time it was repaired. It is surrounded by a number of fine trees, and on two of its sides it is closely mantled with ivy.\*

*Rockhall Mount or Moat.*—This moat, in particular, is of very remote antiquity. It is a fine mound of earth perfectly round, and terminating in a sharp point. It is the largest and most entire of any in the parish or neighbourhood, and is situated upon the side of a ridge of hills which overhang the castle, and separate Annandale from Nithsdale, and overlook an extensive plain at the foot of the river Nith, part of Galloway, and all the Solway Frith. It is generally believed that the people met on these moats to enact laws and administer justice. We are rather of opinion that this moat, or, as it is more frequently called, the "Beacon-hill," was used as a place for keeping watch against the border marauders, and upon which fires were kindled to put the inhabitants of the lower grounds upon their guard against predatory incursions.

\* This tower is rendered famous over the country by a story of a ghost. Sir Alexander Jardine, in the reign of Charles II., had confined in the dungeon of his tower of Spedlins, a man named Porteous, by trade a miller, suspected of wilfully having set fire to his own premises. Being soon after suddenly called to Edinburgh, he carried the key of the vault with him, and forgot the prisoner till he was passing through the West Port of Edinburgh. Sir Alexander immediately sent back a servant to liberate Porteous, but, in the meantime, he died of hunger, and in the extremity of his sufferings he had devoured one of his hands and feet. No sooner was the man dead, than his ghost began to torment the household, and no rest was to be had within the tower of Spedlins by night or by day. In this dilemma, Sir Alexander summoned a number of ministers to his aid, and by their prayers, Porteous was confined to the scene of his mortal agonies, where he continued to scream occasionally at night, and to flutter like a bird against the door of his vault, and to remove the bark from any twig that was thrust through the key hole. The spell which forced the spirit to remain in bondage was attached to a large black letter Bible used by the exorcists, and afterwards deposited in a stone niche in the wall of the staircase. This Bible requiring to be rebound was sent to Edinburgh, but immediately upon its removal, the ghost getting out and crossing the river, made such a noise in the new mansion-house, hauling the Baronet and his lady out of bed, that the Bible was recalled and placed in its former situation. It was printed in London, by Robert Baker, in the year 1634.

There are remains of several Roman encampments in the parish, and the road which Agricola must have taken, on leaving his encampment on Burnswark, to Glota and Bodotria, can readily be pointed out.

*Ancient Relics.*—Many years ago, a person residing at Heck, in the close neighbourhood of the castle, found an immensely massive key, supposed to be the one that opened the lock of the principal gate which led to the castle. This ancient relic was offered to several persons for the sum of 2s. 6d., but no purchaser at that price could be found, and the person who got it had it converted by the blacksmith into two spades for cutting peat. In digging round the remains of the castle, several horse-shoes, spurs, old rusted keys, and large nails of very rude formation, have been found; also some large cannon balls, supposed to have been fired against the castle in the time of Oliver Cromwell. There was a large plain gold ring, without any inscription, picked up some years ago, by the tenant's daughter, at the side of the loch in front of the castle. Many were the conjectures with regard to the history and former owner of this ring; but we have little hesitation in stating that, in all probability, from its modern construction, it must have been dropt by some of the numerous parties who visit the remains of the castle. The ring is now in the possession of Lord Queensberry, who gave a handsome price for it to the finder. Two years ago, a party, while fishing with a net in a part of the loch on the east side of the castle, dragged up the head of a spear, in fine preservation, made of a composition of old mixed brass, or that species of copper which Pliny names "*caldarium*," or cast in a mould. The head was nine inches long, and the socket in which the handle was inserted about half an inch in diameter. It resembled the Roman *pilum* or *hasta*. This kind of weapon was not peculiar to the Romans alone, as all nations had spears. We know the Celtæ had their *lancea*, *sparum*, and *matara*, to which the Roman *hasta* was similar. A small piece of the handle still adhered to it, but upon its drying crumbled into dust. It is in the possession of John Dickson, Esq. of Elshieshields.

*Coins.*—Coins have frequently been found in this parish. Six years ago, a workman cutting peat in the Whitehills moss, about three-quarters of a mile from the town, turned out a considerable quantity of small coins wrapt up in a piece of strong blue cloth. They were all silver groats of Alexander I. of Scotland and Ed-

ward I. of England. Coins of Robert III., Henry VIII., Queen Elizabeth, and Queen Mary, have been found in the parish.

*Barony of Lochmaben or Fourtowns.*—In the immediate neighbourhood of the castle lies the barony of Lochmaben, (or, as it is more frequently called, the Fourtowns,) which consists of four villages, named the Hightae (the largest,) which contains a population of 391; the Heck, 69; the Greenhill, 80; and the Smallholm, 65. The tract of holm ground around these villages is uncommonly rich and fertile. The proprietors hold these lands by a singular and peculiar tenure. From time immemorial, they were called the “King’s kindly tenants,” or the Crown’s “rentallers.” As the lands belonged to the Kings of Scotland, and formed part of the original royal domains, or proper patrimony of the Crown, it is generally believed that they were granted in small pendicles by King Robert Bruce (Lord of Annandale) to the domestic servants of the castle, though at what particular period, it has not been ascertained. The principal obligation incumbent on the tenants or rentallers was, to furnish provisions and other necessaries for the use of the royal fortress; and it is more than probable that the tenants composed the garrison itself. They had no written title to these lands, that is, neither charter nor seisin, and in the case of transference by a tenant of his right to a single successor, it is effected simply by a deed of conveyance, followed by possession or enrolment in the rental book of Lord Stormont, which is done without fee or reward by his Lordship’s factor; and the succession is taken up without service. The constable of the castle frequently treated them in a very arbitrary manner. They presented a petition and complaint to King James VI., stating that, notwithstanding their being kindly tenants and occupiers of His Majesty’s farm lands and tenantry, assigned to His Majesty’s House of Lochmaben, they, among other grievances, were subjected to extortion by the constables of the castle. In consequence of this representation, His Majesty, by a warrant under his sign-manual, ordered the keepers of the Castle of Lochmaben to desist and cease from molesting, troubling, or using any violence against those his tenants, and to suffer and permit them peaceably to occupy their possessions, as they, the keepers, should answer to his Majesty upon their disobedience.

In the reign of Charles II., the tenants were again under the necessity of applying to the Crown for protection. His Majesty, in 1664, issued a warrant under his sign-manual, setting forth, “that he understood the poor kindly tenants of his proper Crown lands

of Hightae, Smallholm, Heck, and Greenhill, have been exorbitantly raised in their rents and services, contrary to the express warrants of his Majesty's grandfather, dated in 1592 and 1602, granted to their predecessors on weighty and good considerations; therefore, his Majesty declares his royal intention, that the said tenants should be protected, and these warrants obeyed as constant leases, according to the true meaning thereof; and of new authorizes the said tenants and their successors to possess and enjoy their respective lands,—they paying and performing yearly the rent and services paid by their ancestors in the year 1602; and prohibits and discharges the keepers of the Castle of Lochmaben, or any who shall pretend right to the said Crown lands, in all time coming, to exact more rent or services from the tenants thereof than they were in use to pay and perform at the dates of the said warrants, or to remove them from their ancient possessions, so long as they thankfully pay and perform the same."

Besides the lands lying around the villages, there was a large and extensive commonty, in which they all had an interest. By mutual agreement, this commonty was divided many years ago, and their several portions improved, and substantial houses built upon them, which, from their extent, are of more value than the original property. The greater proportion of these lands have been purchased by Mr Bell of Rammerscales, a neighbouring proprietor.

### III.—POPULATION.

The population in 1755, amounted to 1393		
1792,	.	2150
1801,	.	2053
1811,	.	2392
1821,	.	2651
1831,	.	2795
Average number of births for the last 7 years,	.	47
Do. of marriages,	.	17
Do. of deaths (though no register is kept,)	.	40
Number of families in the parish,		563
employed in agriculture,		216
trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	.	17
houses inhabited,		545
do. uninhabited	.	209
do. building,	.	4

*Character, &c. of the People.*—In this burgh and parish, no doubt, a considerable quantity of ardent spirits is consumed: but in general the inhabitants are sober, industrious, religious, and many of them of considerable intellectual attainments. Within these last forty years, great improvements have taken place, in regard to their comfort, both in houses and in clothing.

The prevailing game in summer is quoits, which is played by many with great dexterity; and in winter, curling. As players of



the latter interesting game, the parishioners of Lochmaben have long been celebrated and unrivalled.

Poaching, we regret to state, prevails to an alarming degree, both in game and in the salmon fisheries. Smuggling is unknown in the parish.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

##### *Agriculture and Rural Economy.*—

The number of acres arable and of meadow land may be computed at	9000
not in tillage, but affording good sound pasture,	1260
under wood and thriving plantations,	90
moss and irreclaimable moor,	400
Under the plough,	5500

*Rent, Wages, Prices of Stock, &c.*—In a parish of this kind, where the soil is so various, the rent per acre must vary accordingly. Some of the fine croft land in the immediate neighbourhood of the town lets at L. 3 and L. 2, 10s. per acre. The lighter soils and high grounds generally give from L. 1 to L. 1, 5s. The leases of the principal farms are for nineteen or twenty-one years. The smaller farms vary from nine to fifteen years.

The grazing of a milk cow with a calf or stirk is from L. 4 to L. 4, 10s. Few sheep comparatively speaking are kept in the parish. Cows vary in price according to size, age, and condition, from L. 6 to L. 10. Two year old stots of the Galloway breed bring from L. 5 to L. 7, 10s. Few farmers keep their young stock more than two years, which is generally of the Galloway kind. This stock is well adapted for the pastures on the banks of the different rivers, and owing to its richness, they rise to a great size, and bring high prices. The farmer finds it his advantage to pay great attention to the breeding and rearing of cattle, as his profits depend much more upon a good sale of his live-stock, than on the returns from his grain produce. It is well known in Annandale that if cattle give good prices, the landlord is sure to be paid his rent. The greater part of these cattle are purchased by English dealers, and sent to Norfolk, and fattened on the English pastures for the Smithfield market, where they find ready purchasers, on account of the fine quality of their beef. This breed in general does not yield much milk, but the cream is very rich. They have no horns, are hardy, docile and good feeders. Many of the poor people who keep a cow pay little attention to the breed, provided they be, what they call good milkers; hence they prefer a kind of cross-breed which is common about Biggar and Carnwath.

There is one enterprising farmer in the parish, Mr John Halli-

day of Broadholm, who keeps an extensive dairy. He prefers the Ayrshire breed, as affording a larger quantity of milk. In point of symmetry they are very inferior to the Galloway breed, their shoulders being thin, and the fore quarters light. There is also another dairy at Broad Chapel.

Farm horses able for their work can be purchased from L. 18 to L. 30; the best bring L. 35, and sometimes L. 45. The colour is generally black, brown, or gray. A few years ago, gray was the favourite colour. A considerable number is bred and reared in the parish. They are of a good size, and bring high prices; hence many good judges prefer them to the finest of the Clydesdale breed.

Feeding of pigs is carried on to a great extent in this parish. Many of the farmers send to market every season from thirty to forty carcasses, averaging fifteen stones each. The price varies from 4s. to 5s 6d. per stone. This is a great source of revenue to the neighbourhood, and as all the sales are effected for ready money, it enables many of the smaller tenants to pay their rents. Forty years ago, business in pork was done in Annandale to the amount of L. 10,000; and the quantity reared and fed in the parish last year brought the large sum of L. 3411 at 4s. per stone. Every cottager keeps a couple of pigs, the price of which enables him to obtain in moderation the common luxuries of life during the winter season.

*Improvements in Agriculture.*—All the modern improvements have been introduced into this district, such as the improvements of waste lands by draining and fencing, the use of bone dust and rape cake for the raising of turnips, and eating them off upon the fields by sheep; also the cutting or pairing of peat-moss, and burning it upon the ground, after which good crops of oats are raised, or the land is converted into meadow by irrigation. No doubt, for some years past, the low price received for land produce has damped the spirit of improvement—but the lowering of the rents by most of the great landed proprietors has tended much to induce the farmer to persevere in his improvements, in the hope of better times.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Markets, Roads.*—By the activity of the present magistrates, and a few other respectable inhabitants, markets have again been regularly instituted. There are two principal fairs in the year for hiring farm-servants, which are numerously attended, the neighbouring farmers giving them their support. During the winter season there

is a regular weekly market for pork, in which business is done to a large amount. In order to give encouragement to these markets small premiums were given both to the person who brought the largest quantity to market, and also to the person who made the largest purchases.

*Roads.*—In this district, the roads of late have been much improved and kept in excellent order. A road from Glasgow to Carlisle runs for ten miles through the parish, but it is not much frequented, as travellers prefer the one by Beatoch Inn, to Lockerby. There is another excellent road which runs for six miles through the parish, giving great facility and safest, at all seasons, to travellers from the east to Dumfries. On this new line, a handsome bridge is built across the Annan. This road runs for a mile along the north-west side of the Castle loch, and enters Lochmaben at the new church. No mail-coach passes through the town, but a stage-coach runs from Dumfries by Lochmaben, Lockerbie, and Ecclefechan to Langholm. It was at one time contemplated to run the Dumfries mail by Lochmaben, but the road trustees objected on account of the expense of building a bridge across the *Æ*, and of making a few miles of new road. There is a daily post from Edinburgh; a runner from Lochmaben awaits the arrival of the mail at Dumfries, so that a letter put into the Edinburgh post-office the previous evening at nine o'clock is delivered next morning at Lochmaben about ten o'clock.

*Burgh of Lochmaben.*—Lochmaben is a burgh of very ancient date, though at this distance of time the time of its erection cannot be correctly ascertained. The tradition is, that it was made a royal burgh soon after the accession of Bruce to the throne. When the Duke of Albany, the Lord of Annandale, was summoned in 1479, to answer the charges of treason, the summons was executed by the herald, at the market-cross of Dumfries, and also, “*apud crucem fori burgi de Lochmaben,*” and, moreover, at the castle of Lochmaben; and one of the witnesses of the execution at the burgh and castle of Lochmaben, was Robert Henrison, Bailie of Lochmaben. This shews that, in 1479, Lochmaben was a burgh, and had its bailies, and a market-cross, at which the process of the law was usually executed. Like other border towns, it suffered much from the inroads of the English, and was frequently burnt and plundered, so that its charter and records were destroyed. In 1463, the Earl of Warwick led an army into Dumfries-shire, and burnt the town of Lochmaben. In 1484, the Earl of Douglas,

and the traitor Duke of Albany attempted to plunder Lochmaben on St Magdalene's fair day; but they were disappointed. In a charter of *novodamus*, granted the 16th July 1612, by James VI. he gives as a reason for its renewal, that the burgh records had been destroyed when it was burnt by the English. This charter confirms all former charters which had been burnt, and it grants of new to the said burgh all the lands belonging to the same. It also gave full power to the inhabitants to elect magistrates for the government of the people thereof. We may state here, that William Maxwell sat in the Scots Parliament, as commissioner for the burgh of Lochmaben in October 1612. This is the first instance that can be traced of its representation in Parliament.

This burgh is governed by a provost, three bailies, a dean of guild, a treasurer, and nine ordinary councillors. There are five incorporated trades, which annually elect their deacons and office-bearers; and the deacons with the masters of craft, choose their convener; but none of them *ex officio* are members of the town council. The revenues of this burgh are very small, arising from the feu-duties and customs which are collected within the burgh roods. These funds are at present under the judicial management of the Lords of Session. The town contains about 1000 inhabitants, 39 of whom have votes under the Reform Bill for a member of Parliament. This burgh was one of the few which did not come under the spirit of the Reform Act, farther than losing its power, (which perhaps was its greatest,) as one of the five burghs which returned a member to Parliament. There is a very handsome town-hall with a spire and clock, built in 1745,—under which there is the jail and a lock-up-house, with an arched space in front for weighing the different commodities brought to market. When the cross, which was standing in 1479, was destroyed, there is a story told of the manner in which the magistrates for the time being got the present one erected. At the time the castle of Elshields was built, some of the building materials were left remaining; and Lochmaben being without a cross, which was indispensable in all burghs, the town council, as the price of these materials for erecting the cross, made over to the laird of Elshields, his heirs and successors, the mill and mill lands of Lochmaben, being a part of the burgh property, from which lands the present proprietor draws L. 100 Sterling.

There are no manufactories or trade of any kind carried on, so as to induce strangers to settle in the burgh. Some years ago, large quantities of flax were raised in this parish,—which

was manufactured into cloth and sold unbleached in England to the amount of 60,000 yards annually. A great proportion of the inhabitants farm small crofts, from the produce of which they bring up and educate their families,—the males generally seeking their fortune in other lands.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—Robert de Brus, who married the bastard daughter of William the Lion, in the year 1183, granted to the monks of Gisburn the church of Lochmaben. A discussion, soon after, arose between the monks and the diocesan, on the proper construction of this grant. The dispute was settled in 1223,—to the effect that the monks were to retain the tithes of the corn, and to receive three merks yearly from the rector of Lochmaben. The Bishop of Glasgow was to exercise the power of ordination and collation. But there was reserved to William de Glencairn, the church of Lochmaben, with the chapel of Rokle for life, paying yearly to the monks three-and-thirty marks. In Bagimont's Roll, during the reign of James V., the rectory of Lochmaben was taxed L. 5, 6s. 8d., being a tenth of the estimated value. In 1612, the barony of Lochmaben, with the tithes and the advowson of the church, was granted by James VI. to John Murray, groom of his Majesty's bed-chamber, and ratified in Parliament. In 1625, he was created Earl of Annandale, and Lord Murray of Lochmaben. On the death of his son James, the second Earl of Annandale, without issue, in 1658, the lands of Lochmaben, with the patronage of the church, were inherited by his heir-male, David Viscount Stormont; and the patronage now belongs to the Earl of Mansfield. Besides the chapel of Rokle, there are vestiges of several others in the parish. In the fifteenth century, the bailies of Lochmaben endowed a chaplaincy at the altar of the Virgin Mary, in the church of Lochmaben; and they granted an acre of land, with the marsh, which is commonly called the *Struther*, with the second *turn* of the multures of the mill. This endowment was confirmed by James III., 28th April 1486.

The old church, which was taken down in 1818, was a Gothic building with a large choir attached, dedicated to Mary Magdalene. In one of the bloody feuds between the Maxwells of Nithsdale and the Johnstones of Annandale, which took place on Dryffe sands in the year 1592, the Maxwells were defeated with great slaughter, and in their flight took refuge in the kirk of Lochmaben, which the Johnstones burned to the ground. It may be mentioned, that the original key was found by some of the workmen while taking down the church. It was given to the clergyman, the Rev. Mr Gib-

son, who caused it to be presented to the Antiquarian Society. The new church, a handsome substantial building, capable of containing 1700 sitters, was opened for public worship in the year 1819, and cost the heritors, including a new wall round the churchyard, the sum of L. 3000. The heritors agreed to remove the church from its original site in the churchyard, and placed it at the south end of the burgh. The situation is very central, being nearly equidistant from all the extreme points in the parish.

The manse, which is still in tolerable repair, was built in the year 1761. The late worthy incumbent frequently proposed to the heritors to have a new manse, and had fixed upon the site, about 600 yards east of the church in front of the Castle loch; but, though he offered to contribute L. 100 towards the expense of the building, the plan was given up, as it was found no easy matter to gain the consent of 247 heritors. The glebe is very small, consisting of one acre lying very near to the manse, and another of meadow in the lower part of the parish. It was long supposed that a glebe belonged to this parish near to the chapel of Rogle, which is four miles distant from the manse. This opinion was confirmed by some documents that were found in the office of the chamberlain of the late Duke of Queensberry, in which it was discovered that an allowance was given for this glebe to a former incumbent. After the discovery of these documents, the late Mr Gibson took the necessary steps before the Presbytery, and then raised an action in the Court of Session against Lord Queensberry, the present proprietor. After a long and expensive litigation, Mr Gibson gained his case, though he did not live to see the excambion take place to which Lord Queensberry had agreed.

*Dissenting Meeting-Houses.*—There are two Dissenting meeting-houses in this parish, one of which belongs to the Cameronians, and the other to the Burghers. The Cameronian meeting-house is situated in the village of Hightae, and was originally built for a Relief congregation in the year 1796, during the incumbency of the late Rev. Dr Andrew Brown, Professor of Rhetoric, who was translated from Lochmaben to the New Grayfriars, Edinburgh, in 1799. The managers of this chapel, some years ago, sold it to the Cameronians, who have now a minister settled among them. The congregation is a mere handful, as there are only thirty-seven Cameronians in the parish. The clergyman has no dwelling-house, and his stipend does not exceed L. 50. The Burgher chapel, which was built in 1818, is situated within the burgh roods, and

may contain from 800 to 900 sitters. The Burghers in the parish amount to nearly 100. They give a bond to their pastor for L. 80 per annum, out of which sum he must provide himself with a dwelling-house. With the exception of these 136 Cameronians and Burghers, and 12 Roman Catholics, the remainder attend the parish church. The number of communicants at the last celebration of the Lord's supper amounted to 750.

*Stipend.*—In the year 1738, the stipend was fixed at 1200 Scots with 100 merks for communion elements. Since that period, three augmentations have been granted;—the first in 1792, afterwards modified to a certain extent in 1796, when the stipend was augmented to four chalders of victual, half meal and half bear, and L. 83, 6s. 11d. of money, with L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements. A second augmentation was granted in 1807, when the stipend was augmented to ten chalders of victual, half meal half barley, payable in money according to the highest fiar prices of the county, with L. 50 Sterling of money, and L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements. Last of all, the stipend was augmented in 1823, when it was modified to eighteen chalders of victual, half meal half barley, payable in money according to the highest fiar prices of the county, with L. 10 Sterling for communion elements. There has been no final locality applicable to any of these augmentations, the payment of each of them having been all along regulated by interim decrees. A locality has now been made up, which embraces the whole of these augmentations.

*Education.*—There are two endowed schools,—one in the burgh, which has the maximum salary and the interest of L. 200 Sterling at 5 per cent; “mortified by the late James Richardson, Esq. merchant, Reading, in the year 1726, under an obligation to teach ten poor scholars, within the parish, nominated by the kirk-session, English, Latin, writing, and arithmetic.” Mr Richardson also mortified another L. 100 for supporting a library, and keeping in repair a house of two storeys built by him for the accommodation of the schoolmaster. He likewise mortified another L. 100, and gave L. 20 to build a school at Hightae, and the interest of the L. 100 in favour of the schoolmaster for the time being, who was to teach gratis the poor children of the Fourtowns. Mr Richardson was a native of Hightae.

At an average, 50 scholars attend the public school in the burgh. The present master, an efficient teacher, has eleven pupils learning Greek and Latin at 5s. per quarter.

There are three other schools in the town, besides one in the upper district of the parish, and another in the west division. The schools in the burgh are well attended, particularly one of them, which in the winter season is attended by more than 80 scholars. There is also an excellent school for girls kept by a most respectable and well-educated person, assisted by her niece, in which sewing and other useful practical branches of female education are ably taught.

The average number of scholars for the last seven years who have attended the Hightæ school, amounts to 51. The fees are considerably lower than in the burgh school. The salary is one chalders of meal, collected from a great number of heritors, by the merks value, with the interest of L. 100 at five per cent. There are none of the present generation upwards of fifteen years of age who cannot read and write. There is a Sunday school under the management of the Burgher clergyman and his assistants, which is well attended. There is also another at Hightæ. These schools are supported by public collections in their own chapels.

*Literature.*—A new library was instituted in 1819. One of the original subscribers was the celebrated African traveller, Captain Hugh Clapperton, who was at that time residing in Lochmaben with his aunt, a descendant of Johnstone of Thornewhate, who was formerly an extensive proprietor in the parish. This library is very select, and the most approved works in the various departments of literature and history are annually added.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—In this large and populous parish no regular assessments have as yet been made, the heritors preferring to make up the deficiency, when necessary, by voluntary contributions. There are, at the present time, upon the poors' roll 34 persons, besides a considerable number who occasionally receive relief. The sum disbursed last year amounted to L. 81, 10s. 7d., of which one fatuous person received L. 10, and some old and feeble individuals L. 4 each. The weekly collections average nearly 16s.,—which sum, along with what arises from the proclamation of marriages, mortcloth dues, and fines inflicted for immoral conduct and irregular marriages, in ordinary seasons, nearly meets the expenditure. There was a considerable sum of money belonging to the poor of the parish; but unfortunately it fell into the hands of a person who became bankrupt, and the greater part of it was lost. There are four blind persons, and four deaf and dumb in the parish; one of the blind only receives aid from the poors' funds. It



appears to be the general opinion over Scotland, that the independent feeling which was wont to make the sons and daughters of the poor labour hard to support their parents, and to avoid the disgrace of being told that they were upon the poors' roll, is now fast dying away. We regret to say that it is so in this parish to a certain degree.

*Inns.*—There are three very comfortable inns in the burgh, besides several dram-shops in the different villages and parts of the parish. There cannot be a doubt that one-half of these places of entertainment is quite sufficient for the wants of the inhabitants and of travellers; but we deem it only justice to add, that, from the respectability of the landlords of the three inns, these houses are kept in a superior and orderly manner, and all excess in drinking is prevented.

*Fuel.*—The fuel generally used is peat, which costs per cart load from 10d. to 1s., exclusive of cartage, though a great number of families partly use coal, which is brought by sea from Maryport and Whitehaven in Cumberland to Dumfries, and costs 1s. per measure, the measure being equal to twenty-eight and a quarter gallons, six of which make a good cart load.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Since 1792, when the last Statistical Account was written, a great and striking change has taken place in the state and appearance of this parish. The commonty, which has been divided and improved, and which was formerly a bleak moor, has given a new aspect to the west division, as the proprietors appear emulous to surpass one another in their improvements.

Want of coal and lime in the immediate neighbourhood has been felt as a considerable drawback to improvements. Some years ago, a survey was made by Mr Jardine, civil-engineer, for a canal from the mouth of the Solway Frith, to terminate in the Castle loch. If this plan had been executed, it would have been attended with unspeakable advantages, not only to this, but to all the parishes in and around Annandale. If this canal, as was proposed, had been 7 feet deep, and 28 wide at top, and from 18 to 20 at bottom, it would have been capable of receiving vessels which would carry 60 or 70 tons, and draw six feet of water. The whole expense was thus calculated: A lock to raise a vessel 8 feet, L. 1000; two locks, L. 2000; cutting the canal per mile, L. 1000; the distance being 12 miles, whole would cost L. 14,000.

*October 1835.*

## PARISH OF ESKDALEMUIR.

PRESBYTERY OF LANGHOLM, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES AND  
GALLOWAY.

THE REV. WILLIAM BROWN, D. D. MINISTER.

---

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Boundaries, Topographical Appearance, &c.*—THE parish of Eskdalemuir, as its name imports, consists of the lands lying at the head of Eskdale. It is the largest parish in the county of Dumfries, and contains, according to Mr Crawford's map, 33,595 Scots acres, 42,250 English acres, and 66 square miles. The range of mountains that crosses the head of the parish is part of that chain which extends from the source of the Clyde and Annan on the west, to the source of the Tyne in Northumberland on the east, and divides the course of the rivers in this part of Scotland; those to the north running towards Berwick, and those to the south emptying themselves in the Solway Frith. The highest hills in the parish are Lochfell and Etterick, or rather, as it ought to be called, Eskdalemuir Pen; for it is scarcely seen in Etterick, but makes a prominent feature in the scenery of Eskdalemuir. Its height, according to Stobie in his Map of Selkirkshire, is 2200 feet above the level of the sea. The White and Black Esks, so named from the sandy and mossy soils over which they run, take their rise in the parish, and, uniting at the foot of it, form that beautiful river which, after receiving many tributary streams, loses itself in the Solway at Longtown in Cumberland. Although styled a muir, heather is scarcely to be seen in the parish. The hills in sight of the river are green, and the more retired parts are moss, covered with bent (*Carices*) and other water plants. The soil, owing to the flatness of the grounds, is in many places wet; but it has been much improved during the last forty years by draining.

*Hydrography.*—There are two cascades worthy of notice;—the one at the back of Fingland-hill, called Wellsburnspout, of about fifty-six feet, and which, during a heavy rain, covers the rock near

the bottom to the width of forty-nine feet. The Garvald Linns is the other. These are seen by every person going to Garvald. On first leaving the public road that conducts to the head of the parish, the channel of the Garvald water is rocky, and its banks steep; but as these become less so, the attention is gradually withdrawn to other objects. It is when the mind is in this state that the Garvald Linns first present themselves. The effect is what might be expected. One is struck with the grandeur of the scene; vast rocks, rugged precipices, steep banks, covered here and there with mountain-ashes and wild honeysuckle,—and the river now disappearing among the huge masses, and again, as if glad to be disentangled, hurrying on in its course. These form a group which please and astonish the beholder. But to see the Garvald Linns in perfection, you must leave the road to Garvald, and go to the head of the bank, where the scenery is bolder. New rocks are seen, and a beautiful cascade of about eight feet appears.

*Meteorology.*—Since writing my account of the parish to Sir John Sinclair in 1793, I have had time to make many observations on the weather and state of the atmosphere. The following table is formed from a series of observations made for eleven years, at Eskdalemuir manse, every morning at nine o'clock, with a well regulated Fahrenheit's thermometer at a northern exposure. I consider them valuable from their proximity to the chain of mountains above-mentioned; and because none have been made (that I know of) nearer than Branhholm on the one hand, and Broomholm on the other.

	<i>Fair days.</i>	<i>Days on which it rained or snowed.</i>	<i>Average heat from the begin- ning of March till the end of October, as the months which influence the crops.</i>	<i>Average heat through the year.</i>
1800,	243	122	50 $\frac{7}{8}$	44 $\frac{7}{8}$
1801,	232	133	53 $\frac{1}{8}$	46 $\frac{2}{8}$
1802,	226	139	48 $\frac{6}{8}$	43 $\frac{7}{8}$
1803,	250	115	50 $\frac{1}{8}$	44 $\frac{6}{8}$
1804,	229	137	49 $\frac{3}{8}$	44 $\frac{8}{8}$
1805,	246	119	50 $\frac{6}{8}$	45 $\frac{2}{8}$
1806,	233	132	50 $\frac{7}{8}$	45 $\frac{3}{8}$
1807,	218	147	49 $\frac{9}{8}$	43 $\frac{7}{8}$
1808,	213	153	51 $\frac{2}{8}$	45 $\frac{5}{8}$
1809,	216	149	50 $\frac{5}{8}$	44 $\frac{1}{8}$
1810,	231	144	50 $\frac{1}{8}$	44 $\frac{1}{8}$

The south-west and south winds prevail in summer, and the east and north winds in winter.

*Geology.*—The direction of the regular strata, which are of

greywacke and other transition rocks, is from north-east to south-west.

In my report to Sir John Sinclair, I mentioned the letter stones on the farm of Twiglees. They are part of a stratum of amygdaloid, which can be traced from the Shawrigg in the parish of Westerkirk, to Castlehill Craigs. These same letter stones occur at Twiglees Burnhead and Black Esk head Pikes in this parish, a distance of six miles. They lie in a direction different from that of the regular strata, being from south-east to north-west.

#### II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Historical Events.*—I have never been able to learn to whom the lands in Eskdalemuir belonged, prior to the reign of James V. There might be, and were probably, parts granted to one or more proprietors before that time; but tradition says, that in general they were possessed by the clan of Beattieson, from whom the present name of Beattie is derived by no other title than that of occupancy. It is farther stated, that Cardinal Beaton and Robert Lord Maxwell were sent by James as ambassadors to France in the year 1537, to conclude a marriage between the King and Mary of Guise; that Lord Maxwell, by commission, as proxy for the King, married the Queen in France; and that he and the cardinal conducted her to Scotland; for which good service, the King gifted the lands comprehended under the name of the Five Kirks of Eskdale to Lord Maxwell. It may be proper, however, to add, that the Five Kirks, then, were not the same as those comprehended under that name, now; but were Upper and Nether Ewis, Wauchope, Staplegordon, and Westerkirk, which last included Eskdalemuir, before it was erected into a separate parish. Tradition farther says, that, when Lord Maxwell came to take possession of the Eskdalemuir part of the estate (having previously summoned them to meet him at Dumfedling, which, and Staplegordon, were the two baronies of Eskdale, where justice was administered and business transacted,) he offered them rights to their several possessions on certain specified conditions. These, however, they were unwilling to accept of, thinking themselves injured by the King's grant. Words rose high between Lord Maxwell and them,—consultations were held in his absence, and the result might have been fatal,—had not Rolland Beattie of Watcarrick, a prudent man, warned him of his danger, and given him his white mare, which none of them could overtake, to carry him to Branzholm. It is further stated, that,

when at Branxholm, being disgusted with the spirit of the Beatties, he proposed selling the Eskdalemuir part of the estate to Scott of Branxholm, (the ancestor of the family of Buccleuch,) without, however, promising to put him in possession. This Scott of Branxholm readily assented to; and being warden of the middle marches between Scotland and England, he raised his friends, went to Eskdalemuir, and expelled all the clan Beattieson, except Roland Beattie of Watcarrick, to whom Lord Maxwell, out of gratitude for his preservation, had reserved a perpetual tenant-right to his possession, on condition of his paying a certain sum annually. Scott of Branxholm having thus cleared the parish of the Beatties, gave, as was the custom of the times, feu-rights to his relations and dependents, to the greater part of it. I have been favoured with a copy of the division which is said to have been made at the time alluded to, and shall subjoin it, without, however, vouching for its accuracy. Scott of Harden got Over Cassock; Scott of Davington, Upper and Nether Davington, Fingland, and Pentland, Upper and Nether Dumfedling, Nether Cassock, Wester Polclive, Wetwood Rigg, and Burncleugh; Scott of Johnston got Johnston, and Johnston Dinnings, Raeburnfoot, Craighaugh, and Saughhill; Scott of Raeburn, Moodlaw, Raeburnhead, Harewoodhead, Yetbyre and Yards; Scott of Rennelburn, Rennelburn, Aberlosh, Midraeburn, Clerkhill, Greystonelee, Coatt, and Coatthope; Scott of Bailielee, Moodlawknow, Grassyards, Kimmingsyke, Langshawburn, and Crurie; and Scott of Branxholm reserved to himself the upper part of Thickside, Easter Polclive, Garwald Holm, Castlehill, and all Black Esk. It would be a curious inquiry, how far the title-deeds of these several estates give confirmation of, or tend to overthrow, the above tradition.

*Land-owners.*—These at present are ten in number, the Duke of Buccleuch by far the largest,—his farms making two-thirds of the parish.

*Parochial Registers.*—The parochial registers reach back to 1703, when Eskdalemuir, formerly a part of the parish of Westerkirk, was erected into a separate parish. They are not voluminous; and have been regularly kept since that time.

*Antiquities.*—In my former Account, I mentioned Castle O'er or Overbie, as a supposed Roman camp, communicating with Middlebie and Netherbie. I am now convinced it is of Saxon origin, and that the true Roman camp of Overbie is on the farm

of Raeburnfoot, about a mile above the church. It is situated on the tongue of land between the houses of Raeburnfoot and the Esk, inclining gently towards the east, and about forty feet above the level of the river. I stumbled upon it accidentally in summer 1810, and am inclined to believe, that I have been fortunate enough to discover the true Roman station in the head of Eskdale. The plan and description, as taken from actual measurement at the time, are as follows.

The most natural approach to the camp is on the south after crossing the Esk at Raeburnfoot, where the length of the outer line, consisting of a ditch and rampart, is as follows:—From the south-west corner, to the entrance into the camp the extent is 120 feet; the entrance is 20 feet; and from the entrance to the south-east corner, 230 feet,—making in all 370 feet. On one side, the ditch is 5 feet deep at an average, and about 20 feet wide; and the rampart on the inside of the ditch is formed of the earth that was taken from the ditch. The ditch on the east side has now filled up; but the rampart is perfectly distinct, and measures thus:—From the south-east corner to the entrance into the camp on that side is 240 feet; the entrance itself is 20 feet; and from the entrance to the north-east corner is 330 feet; making 590 feet in all. On the north side, the ditch is both deeper and wider than we found it to be on the south side; for, in place of being 5 feet deep, and 20 feet wide, it is 12 feet deep, and 30 feet wide, to defend the camp the more effectually from any attack from the hill, which on this side begins to rise above the camp. It is for the same reason that the line on this side is longer than the line on that side; for, in place of being 370 feet, it is 440, and divided thus:—From the north-east corner to the entrance, is a space of 270 feet; the entrance itself is 20 feet; and from the entrance to the north-west corner is 150 feet. The ditch and rampart on the west side are evidently worn away by the river; for there is a steep bank on that side, and the form of the camp is evidently incomplete. Happily, however, for the antiquary, the spirit of the stream seems to have repented of his intrusion, and has now retired to a considerable distance. The length, therefore, and subdivisions on that side are as follows:—From the north-west corner to the outer ditch of the prætorium is a space of 110 feet. The outer ditch is 10 feet wide, and about 3 feet deep. There is a rampart between the outer and inner ditch of 10 feet wide at the base, and about 3 feet high. The

inner ditch is 10 feet wide and 3 feet deep. Between the inner ditch of the prætorium on the north side, and the inner ditch of the prætorium on the south side, is a space of 270 feet; the inner ditch itself is 10 feet wide, and 3 feet deep; the rampart between the inner and outer ditch is 10 feet at the base, and about 3 feet high. The outer ditch on the south side of the prætorium is 10 feet wide, and 3 feet deep; and the space between the outer ditch of the prætorium and the south-west corner of the camp is 140 feet; making the whole length on the west side to be 580 feet.

Such, then, are the outward limits of the Roman camp at Raeburnfoot; but they include a considerable space, as the prætorium, which deserves next to be described. It is bounded, on the south side, by two ditches, and a rampart between them. From the south-west corner to the entrance, is a space of 120 feet; the entrance itself is 20 feet, and parallel to the outer entrance on that side; and the space from the entrance to the south-east corner is 100 feet, making the south side of the prætorium 240 feet in all. There is no appearance of ditches or ramparts on the east side. The north side of the prætorium has the same number of ditches and ramparts as the south side, and is of the same dimensions,—only the division of the line is different. For from the north-east corner to the entrance is not 100 feet, as on the south side but 110 feet; the entrance is 20 feet wide like the rest, and parallel with the outer entrance on that side; and the distance from the entrance to the north-west corner is not 120 feet, as on the south side, but 150,—to make it correspond with the outer ditch on that side. The whole length of the prætorium, therefore, on the north side, is 280 feet. From this account it is evident that the southern entrances into the camp and prætorium are parallel, and the northern entrances into the camp and prætorium are parallel. But they are not all opposite to each other, for the southern entrances are 120 feet distant from the west side of the camp, and the northern entrances are 150,—owing, as I formerly observed, to the greater length of line on that side, to cut off any chance of danger from the hill.

The area of the whole encampment is supposed to be, in extent, 5 English acres, 1 rood, and 30 poles. But this is only the extent of the area in its present imperfect state. Were the lines on the west side of the entrances extended as far as those on the east side, so as to make it a square, it would contain 6 English acres, 3 roods, and 24 poles.

The above camp remained from 1810, when it was first discovered, till a few years ago, just as I have described it, and was visited by many; but I regret to add that it is now much injured by the proprietor's having allowed it to be ploughed up, in order to obtain a few crops previous to its being laid down in pasture. Had he planted it, it might have been equally productive, and the venerable relict of Roman residence kept sacred.\*

There are two circles of stones on the farm of Coatt, in the form of Druidical temples, the one entire, measuring about 90 feet in circumference, the other having a part worn away by the water, measuring about 340 feet.†

In my former Account of the parish, having mentioned the tradition of a fair said to have been held at the meeting of the White and Black Esks at the foot of the parish, where the singular custom of hand-fasting was observed,‡ and having then endeavoured to account for the origin of that custom, I shall here transcribe another extract from Mr Maxwell's letter to me, before referred to, as illustrative of the subject. "No account can be given of the period at which the custom of hand-fasting com-

\* The following extract of a letter from the late John Maxwell, Esq. of Broomholm, dated 15th April 1796, merits preservation. It was written when Castle O'er was supposed to be the true Overbie of the Romans, but is equally applicable to the camp at Raeburnfoot. "It is a fact sufficiently established, that Netherbie was a Roman town, and a principal station, and likewise that the work at Burrance in the parish of Middlebie was a considerable Roman station, and it has always been believed that Overbie or Castle O'er was a third; these three standing at the points of a great triangle. Roads of communication made after the Roman manner have been completely traced between Netherbie and Middlebie, and between Netherbie and Overbie. And not only the vestiges of the last mentioned line of road, but, in many places, parts of the road may still be seen entire, and several Roman coins have been found scattered along the line, particularly a gold coin which I have seen in the possession of the deceased Matthew Little, merchant in Langholm, which was found in the small holm, on the south-east of Wauchope bridge, through which the road passed. It was a denarius aurius and an Otho, a very scarce coin. I myself found six of these denarii aurii upon the farm of Broomholm, through which the road passes and shews itself in a very perfect state. Three of them were Neros, two Vespasians, and one Domitian, all in perfect preservation. They are now in possession of Lady Douglas of Douglas. As the road where these were found goes up the Esk to Overbie, I am still strongly inclined to think Overbie a Roman station, notwithstanding its oval form." The author of this report, long after receiving the above letter, saw another denarius aurius in the possession of the late Mr John Russell, minister of Canobie, which had been turned up by the plough on the glebe. It was in perfect preservation, and is, he believes, in the possession of Mr Russell's daughter, Mrs Wigham.

† For a farther account of the antiquities of this parish, see MS.

‡ The custom is thus described in the former Statistical Account: "At that fair, it was the custom for unmarried persons of both sexes to choose a companion according to their liking, with whom they were to live till that time next year. This was called *hand-fasting*, or hand in fist. If they were pleased with each other at that time, then they continued together for life; if not, they separated, and were free to make another choice, as at the first."



menced, but I was told by an old man, John Murray, who died at the farm of Irving, as you go from Langholm to Canobie, and had formerly been a proprietor in Eskdalemuir, that he was acquainted with or at least had seen an old man, I think his name was Beattie, who was grandson to a couple of people who had been hand-fasted. You perhaps know that the children born under the hand-fasting engagement were reckoned lawful children, and not bastards, though the parents did afterwards reseil. This custom of hand-fasting does not seem to have been peculiar to your parish, for there are instances of its having prevailed elsewhere. Mention is made in some histories of Scotland that Robert II. was hand-fasted to Elizabeth More before he married Euphemia Ross, daughter of Hugh, Earl of that name, by both of whom he had children; and his eldest son, John, by Elizabeth More, viz. King Robert III., commonly called Jock Fernyear, succeeded to the throne in preference to the sons of Euphemia, his married wife. Indeed, after Euphemia's death, he married his former hand-fasted wife Elizabeth."

### III.—POPULATION.

In 1755, as given by Dr Webster,	.	675
1793, by the present minister,	.	619
1801, by Government census,	.	587
1811, Do.	.	589
1817, by the present minister,	.	634
1821, by census,	.	651
1830, by the present minister,	.	683
1831, by census,	.	650

To which last, if the 20 who went to America in the spring previous to the census, be added, they will bring the number to 670, or only 13 fewer than the year before.

By the return to Government in 1821, the inhabited houses were 117, occupied by 119 families, which, in a population of 651, gives  $5\frac{5}{11}$  to each family. And by the return to Government in 1831, the inhabited houses were 114, occupied by 115 families, which, in a population of 650, gives  $5\frac{7}{11}$  to each family.

In 1831, number of families employed in agriculture as occupiers, or labourers,	116
manufactures, retail trade, and handicraft,	22
of professional and other educated men,	4
of labourers not agricultural,	5

The following list of births, marriages, and deaths, was taken by the present minister at the annual diets of parochial examination, and checked every subsequent year by the list of the preceding. The marriages are all of parishioners,—so that when one of them married a stranger, one only is marked, and two when they were both parishioners. The dead also are entirely of the parish, no mention being made of the strangers whose burial places happened to be amongst us.

Months	Born.			Married.			Dead.			Below Betwixt										
	M.	F.	Tot.	M.	F.	Tot.	M.	F.	Tot.											
From 1st Jan. 1792 to 1st Jan. 1798,	12	7	10	17	3	7	12	6	16	10.	10 & 20	20 & 30	30 & 40	40 & 50	50 & 60	60 & 70	70 & 80	80 & 90	90 & 100	
1793 to Feb. 1794,	13	13	7	20	1	3	4	6	3	9										
1794 to Feb. 1795,	12	8	4	12	1	3	4	3	3	11	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	
1795 to Jan. 1796,	11	7	3	10	2	3	5	2	7	9										
1796 to Dec. 1796,	11	12	11	23	1	2	3	7	13	20	3	2	0	0	2	1	0	3	1	1
1796 to Dec. 1798,	14	6	3	9	4	7	11	5	5	10	1	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	0
1798 to Jan. 1799,	11	7	6	13	4	3	7	6	7	13	2	1	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	3
1799 to Jan. 1800,	13	6	8	14	3	1	4	4	4	8	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	2	0	0
1800 to Feb. 1801,	12	5	8	13	2	2	4	2	2	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
1801 to 1802,	12	6	6	12	6	4	10	8	7	15	2	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
1802 to 1803,	12	8	10	18	3	2	5	3	4	7	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1803 to Dec. 1803,	11	9	10	19	11	12	23*	4	7	11	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
1803 to Dec. 1804,	12	9	10	19	2	2	4	2	6	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	0
1804 to Jan. 1806,	13	7	9	16	1	1	2	3	7	10	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
1806 to Jan. 1807,	12	12	7	19	5	7	12	3	3	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1807 to 1808,	11	13	7	20	2	2	4	3	4	7	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
	135	119	254	53	61	114	74	88	162	12	10	4	8	3	5	4	5	2	8	3
	10	4	8	3	5	4	5	2	8	2	8	3	10	17	7	3	4	1	1	1

\* Supposing the population in 1803 to have been, what it really was, 524, the twenty-three marriages in that year made very nearly the twenty-third part of the population, for 23 X 23 = 529, so that in 1803 nearly every twenty-third person in the parish, man, woman, and child, was married in eleven months. Lists of a similar description to the above were kept for four years longer, viz. from 1st January 1808 to 1st January 1812; but as no particular object was in view, they were not separately recorded. The sum of them, however, before they were destroyed, stood thus: Born 36 males, 26 females, total 64; married 17 males, 13 females, total 30; dead 20 males, 12 females, total 32; which numbers, added to those in the above table, make the sum total for twenty years to be, born 171 males, 147 females, total 318; married 70 males, 74 females, total 144; dead 94 males, 100 females, total 194; or annually thus; born 8.11-20th males, 7.7-20th females, 7.7-20th males, 3.14-20th females; total 4.14-20th males, 5 females.

There is no village in the parish,—no nobility nor families of independent fortune residing in it. The whole ten proprietors formerly mentioned have, each, land to the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards.

Poaching in game, for these last two years particularly, has been unusually common. Strangers come in groups of two and three, and sometimes in triple that number; go every where openly, but chiefly upon the Duke of Buccleuch's grounds, where the grouse and black game are most plentiful, and send them off in large quantities. Having regular licenses, they know they can only be prosecuted for trespass, and the penalty for that offence they can easily pay. The demoralizing influence of such conduct need not be dwelt upon. To do them justice, they are careful not to disturb the sheep. But were proprietors, in place of preserving the game on their estates to the exclusion almost of every one, to grant liberty to several of the farmers in the parishes where their estates happen to lie, these would become guardians of the game, and would feel more interested than at present in its preservation.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture and Rural Economy.*—The number of English acres either cultivated occasionally or in tillage is 482, and the number remaining constantly in pasture 41,768. Very little wood is to be seen.

*Rent of Land.*—The average rent of land per English acre may be 15s. The sum for grazing a cow in summer, L. 3. Hay for a cow in winter is commonly obtained by making it either in the bogs of the farmer under whom the cottar lives, or some neighbouring farmer for the third part,—so that to obtain ten summer ricks for himself, he must make twenty for the farmer.

*Breeds of Live-Stock, &c.*—All the sheep in the parish, except two hirsels, are of the Cheviot breed; the two hirsels alluded to are the black-faced or Linton breed. On several of the farms there is a proportion of west Highland cattle, bought either at Falkirk or Dumfries in the autumn. These are wintered either at large on grass with hay, during a storm, or in an inclosure on hay, and sold next summer. Some farmers allow them to continue at large on the farm, even in summer, considering that they can do no harm to the sheep provided they be disposed of before Lammas; this parish, from its soil and situation, having generally abundance of pasture till that time. But to keep them later is considered injurious to the sheep.

The common length of leases on sheep farms containing a portion of arable land, which is the description of farms in this parish, is nine years : but this is too short ; for there is not sufficient time for making any great improvement, and these, if made, are scarcely finished, and the farmer has hardly begun to enjoy the fruits of them, when, by their being brought again into the market, they become a temptation to a new bidder. On the Duke's farms, this is indeed corrected ; for there, there is no exposure to public roup, nor private offers made. A certain percentage, in proportion to the sales of the former lease, is either added to or taken from it, as the rent of the lease ensuing : this is offered for the acceptance of the tenant, and if he has a son to succeed him, behaves well, and can pay his rent, he is never removed. In this way, let the leases be of what length they may, improvements are constantly carrying on : farms become a kind of life-tenant property to the possessors, who improve them for their children's children, and yet it is understood that the Duke's farms are not, on the whole, cheaper than others. But the security of the system is all the charm. In the building of houses, the Duke gives wood, slate, and lime ; but the carriage of these from the places where they are usually sold, and all the other expenses of building and finishing, are the work of the tenant. On farms differently constituted, every permanent improvement ought to be made by the landlord. In general, the farm buildings on the Duke's estates in Eskdale are commodious and in good repair ; and I add with pleasure, that the paternal interest which the family of Buccleuch has ever taken in the welfare of its tenantry, is gratefully felt by the latter, and has a powerful effect on their general character. Few are more honourable in their dealings or better informed.

*Draining.*—The most general improvement on sheep farms here is surface draining. The drains are generally made from 16 inches to 2 feet wide, and 1 foot deep at an average. The expense of making them is from 6s. to 7s. 6d. per 100 roods of 18 feet each ; and when the soil, after some years, has become compressed, and the sides of the drains have begun to meet, they are commonly widened and cleaned out for from 4s. to 5s. per 100 roods. A considerable degree of skill is requisite in laying them on. If they run too slow, they cannot clear themselves of flying bent and other impurities ; and if too rapid, they run into gullies. The best rate of motion is a medium between these two. Experience has taught that they

should be of considerable length, to collect a sufficient quantity of water for keeping them clear; and, where the ground will allow it, they are commonly made to run up the water rather than down; that is to say, when draining the wet side of a hill, facing the east, for instance, with a burn running south at the bottom,—in place of beginning the drains at the north end, in a parallel direction from north to south, as the burn runs,—it is better to begin them at the south end of the hill, and make them run north into some ravine or syke on that side, communicating with the burn. You can thus make the draining more level, by having gained the difference of level on the north end, above that on the south. The advantages of these drains, on sheep farms containing much bog, are incalculable. The grounds which retained the wet after rain, or were locked up by every frost, by having their surface moisture quickly carried off, afford a dry bed for the sheep, and better grasses for their support, and have banished that most destructive of all diseases, the rot. In this parish, there are on some of the farms between 30,000 and 40,000 roods of these drains; and in the whole parish, there are nearly 400,000 roods of drains.

*Embanking.*—But, besides surface drains on hill lands, the straightening and embanking of the Black and White Esks, with several of their tributary streams, have been of material advantage. There is a long embankment of the Black Esk on the farm of Kilburn, and one of shorter dimensions, of the Garwald water, below Thickside; but the principal one is that of the White Esk on the farms of Nether Cassock, Davington, and Burncleugh, extending to nearly two miles, and done at great expense. By it, an extensive holm or haugh, of more than 100 acres, which, in many places, was a sour swamp and much overflowed every flood by the river,—has been dried and rendered productive both for crops and hay.

*Mole-catching.*—Mole-catching, which, in my former Account, was merely mentioned as a thing proposed, was in the summer of 1797 carried into effect, on the whole of the Duke of Buccleuch's farms in the south country. Messrs Fleming and Thomson from Lancashire undertook to catch, for fourteen years from that date, on the following conditions: For every 100 acres of arable land, 10s. annually for each of the first three years; and 5s. annually for each of the remaining eleven; and for every 100 acres of sheep pasture, 8s. 4d. annually for each of the first three years, and 4s. 2d. for each of the remaining eleven. The plan is continued still, but at a lower rate; for, the first fourteen years re-

quired four times the number of hands that are needed now. As everything on the Duke's estate is done systematically, the proportion due by each farmer is paid at the rent day to the chamberlain, after deducting the board of the mole-catcher, and handed over to Mr Fleming, who regularly attends. Several other proprietors and tenants have agreed with Mr Fleming, at the Duke's rates. One advantage is obvious to the most superficial observer. Before the moles were caught, their usual run was along the back of the drains, where the ground was driest, and often into the drains,—the consequence of which was, that every flood sending out water through these holes spread the mole hills over the ground beneath, causing that rich soft grass to arise, which, in spring, might do no injury, but was dangerous in autumn for the introduction of rot.

In 1798, His Grace Henry of Buccleuch knowing the advantages of flat flooding on meadows, and *catch-work*, as it is technically called, on sloping grounds in several of the counties in England,—engaged Mr Stephens to assist any of his farmers who were so inclined, in laying down land regularly for water meadow. A considerable number profited by his Grace's offer; and the whole of the meadows so operated on have been accurately reported by Dr Singer, at the request of the Highland Society, and the report published by them in the third volume of their Transactions. There was no water meadow in this parish, except two acres of catch-work on the glebe; which, although supplied by a mountain rivulet of very inferior quality, were visibly enriched,—the poor barren soil being converted into rich black mould. In general, the objections against the system were,—the small quantity of ground that could be spared from the sheep or the plough,—the abundance of hay either from meadow or bog,—and the poverty of the water when compared with that which passes through the rich manufacturing districts of England. The hay, too, was thought good for cattle but not for horses; and of fodder for the latter they stood most in need.

Till the beginning of the present century, it was the practice of farmers, during snow storms of any great continuance, to fly with their sheep to Annandale. To those living under different circumstances, it is scarcely possible to conceive the extent to which this was carried. I select one instance of many from a memorandum taken at the time. “On the 15th January 1802, the thaw came which relieved so many thousands of sheep. For a great number of years, such a general flying for pasture had not been ex-

perienced, although lesser ones have been far from unfrequent. Every part of Nithsdale, Annandale, and the lower part of Eskdale, that could take in sheep was filled with them from Crawfordmuir, Tweedsmuir, Ettrick, and Yarrow, the head of Tiviotdale, Ewes, and Eskdalemuir; and had the frost continued eight days longer, there is no saying what the farmers would have done. Nor was all this owing to the great depth of snow, for it was by no means considerable. The whole of the evil was occasioned by the snow falling wet, or becoming so, and then-freezing, which locked up the pastures from the sheep. The common rate per score, for twenty-four hours, even for this imperfect kind of support, was from 10d. to 1s. 6d." No such thing as *flying* in this parish is now ever thought of,—the pastures in Annandale, to which they usually fled, having in many places been subdivided and enclosed. Hay parks were begun at home. The dung which lay useless formerly, was employed to enrich them. This gave a considerable quantity of led hay for the sheep; and in addition to this, it was found that the better kind of bog hay when well got, could subsist sheep very well, till the thaw came. In place, therefore, of their being hungered before they went to Annandale, half starved while there, and half-drowned in the burns on their way home when the thaw came, they continue at home, thrive better, and much money is saved to the farmer.

An additional fund of support for young cattle and sheep has lately been introduced into this parish from Liddesdale by Mr James Elliot, tenant of Yetbyre,—in mowing the flying bent and converting it into hay. Before he began the practice, it was allowed to wither, to be carried about by the winds, and stop the current of the drains. But since that time, several have followed his example, and found their account in it. It is not so nutritive as bog hay, but if cut early when full of sap, it is far from being despicable;—and what adds to its value is, that it is found on farms where bog hay is not abundant.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Means of Communication.*—Our roads are not turnpike, but made and kept in repair by an yearly assessment, laid on by those heritors of the parish who are Commissioners of Supply, always before the 30th April; on which day the Commissioners of Supply for the county meet at Dumfries, to receive and sanction the assessment of the county. The rate is paid one-half by the heritors, and one-half by the tenants. There are about twenty-one miles of this

description of road in the parish. We have a bridge of two arches over the White Esk, near the kirk, and a bridge of one arch over the Black Esk. On the road to Lockerbie, Lochmaben, Dumfries, and Moffat, a third is to be erected over the Black Esk, immediately above its junction with the White Esk. This will open a communication with the lime-works in the parish of Middlebie, and be of great use to this parish. Should the line surveyed lately by Mr Welsh, under the superintendance of Mr Telford, of a coach-road from Carlisle by Gariston Bridge, Middlebie, Eskdalemuir, Ettrick, Yarrow, Innerleithen, and Middleton to Edinburgh, be carried into effect, it will be shorter than the present road by Langholm, Hawick, Selkirk, &c. by about twelve miles. It is in general level, and has throughout a southern exposure, which is of consequence, in times of snow.

The ring fences around the enclosed lands of farms are commonly of stone; the subdivisions, of thorn; and the march dikes between farms, always of stone.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church is nearly in the centre of the parish, on the banks of the White Esk. It was built in 1826, and is not only commodious but elegant. It is seated for the accommodation of 393 persons, allowing 18 inches to each sinner. The manse was built in 1783, and has not only been several times repaired, but considerably enlarged. The extent of the glebe is 24 English acres, including manse, offices, and garden; the latter of which, when the present incumbent entered, was quite open to the sheep and cattle of the neighbouring farmer. It is now surrounded and subdivided, partly with stone and partly with hedge-rows; and a number of trees have been planted round the manse. The stipend is 15 chalders, half meal half barley, with L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements.

There is in the parish no Dissenting place of worship, properly so called. The only Dissenters are Cameronians, 17 in number, who are occasionally visited by preachers; and annually, or every two years, have the sacrament dispensed to them at Upper Dumfedling, when all those of the same denomination from neighbouring parishes usually attend. They are a moral and religious people, with whom I have always lived on the most friendly habits. Although staunch to their principles, their children generally attend the Established church.

The distance from the parish church is great to many; but it is in general well attended. In good weather, they come to



church from a distance of four, five, or six miles. The average number of communicants for the last ten years is 159.

*Societies.*—The only society for religious purposes in the parish, is the Eskdalemuir Bible and Missionary Association. It has existed sixteen years, and in that time subscriptions and collections at the annual sermon have been made to the amount of L. 294, 7s. 10d., or L. 18, 7s. 10d. yearly. The contributions were sent to the British and Foreign Bible Society, till 1823, when the contributors, being dissatisfied with their conduct respecting the Apocrypha, and in employing infidel agents, resolved to send them to the Edinburgh Bible and Scottish Missionary Societies.

*Education.*—There are two schools in the parish,—the parochial and a private one. The parochial schoolmaster's salary is the maximum, L. 34, 4s. 5d., and the school fees and Candlemas present about L. 10. Besides the ordinary branches, Latin, Greek, and French are taught. It is but justice to say, that the merits of a teacher far exceed his emoluments. He has even more than the legal accommodation, as to house and garden. The private school is entirely supported by school wages; and the teacher goes from house to house with his scholars. In general, the parents are anxious to have their children educated; but the distance from the school not unfrequently induces several families to unite in hiring a teacher for the winter half year,—dividing the salary according to the number of scholars; and it is pleasing for me to remark, that, at the usual diets for parochial examination, which are uncommonly well attended, there appears no deficiency as to reading, and an acquaintance with the principles of religion,—the parents making up by private tuition what they cannot procure by public instruction. I state this from accurate knowledge; for, at each diet, the children bring their Bibles to read a portion, on which they are examined after Gall's method, repeat their catechisms, psalms, and paraphrases, commonly with great accuracy; and at two diets held where the schools are situated, after the older people have been examined, the teachers go through the different English branches taught in their schools in the hearing of the parents.

*Libraries.*—Till lately, those fond of reading were subscribers to the Westerkirk parish library. But we have now one of our own which is increasing fast, and the terms of admission are very moderate.

*Poor.*—The number of persons at present on the poor's list is

15. They are supported by quarterly assessments, increased or diminished according to the state of the case; and these assessments are paid, one-half by the heritors, and one-half by the tenants. The assessment at present is L. 25 per quarter; but this is unusually large, in order to meet some extraordinary cases. The average sum collected for poor's rates annually, during the last ten years, is L. 64, 3s. 0½d. and the average number of paupers on the list during that time has been 12. The evil effects of assessments are apparent in this parish as elsewhere. The collections at the church for the last ten years amounted to L. 204, 2s. 7¾d. or L. 20, 8s. 3d. yearly. They are commonly appropriated to the following uses: to pay the salaries of the ordinary office-bearers, to educate the poor scholars, to aid the Dumfries and Galloway Infirmary, and thereby give us the power of sending patients to that useful institution; and to give temporary aid to poor people, either to keep them from the poor's rates, or support them till the first quarterly meeting. The session, besides these collections, has L. 80 of mortified money and accumulated collections, the interest of which goes, by agreement, in aid of the poor rates, and is accepted by the committee in lieu of the half of the session funds to which by law they are entitled. Mrs William Curll, formerly a residenter in this parish, but latterly in Kelso, left to the care of the Eskdalemuir session L. 25,—the interest of which is to go to aged persons not on the poor's lists; and Mrs Moffat, late at Garwald, left L. 20 to the session, the interest to be employed in buying school Bibles for poor scholars. This last is a most useful legacy.

*Fuel.*—The usual fuel is peat, of which there is fortunately great abundance; so that, in dry years, a sufficient store can be laid up; but in wet seasons, our situation is uncomfortable.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The great storm in 1794 should not pass unnoticed, in a work of this kind. It happened the year after I wrote my former Account, and from a memorandum taken at the time, I am enabled to describe it with accuracy. "During the harvest of 1793 the weather was good, and never was there a milder and more favourable winter for stocks than this was, till the fatal 25th January 1794. That storm was the most dreadful ever known in this place. The snow began to fall in the evening of Thursday the 23d, and covered the ground to the depth of about four inches. Friday the 24th, the forenoon was pretty good, and in the evening it began to rain; and there was every appearance of thaw, the wind being south-west. The

shepherds, therefore, *stelled* their sheep, in that expectation,—sheltering them from the south-west wind. The rain became always heavier, till betwixt one and two o'clock in the morning of Saturday the 25th. This filled the sykes with melted snow. At four o'clock, the air was perfectly calm, and the sky starry. But in half an hour, the wind changed to the north-north-east, and then the snow and drift began; it freezing at the same time very hard, when the drift became very great, which it did about five o'clock; it drove the sheep into the sykes, and the intensity of the frost confined them there till they were drowned. Those which escaped the sykes were driven into hollow places and covered with snow. Many were struck dead on the dry ground, and found afterwards lying on their backs. The drift was excessive till about eight o'clock, when it slackened a little, and continued so till three in the afternoon, when it became as dreadful as ever, and continued till past midnight. Next morning, Sabbath the 26th, was perfectly calm and clear, and the whole day pleasant, but very frosty. It was painful to see cart loads of half-dead sheep carrying to the farm-houses to be taken care of. This kind of frosty weather continued till Wednesday 29th, when a heavy fall of snow began about one o'clock, and continued till late. Thursday 30th, was clear. On Friday 31st at mid-day a thaw came, and in twenty-four hours almost all the snow disappeared. Every shepherd in the parish was in jeopardy on the 25th, but fortunately no lives were lost. The total number of sheep destroyed in Eskdalemuir on the 25th January was 4006, and 7 black cattle. This was the loss as taken immediately after the storm; but there is every reason to think that it was considerably greater, as many went down the burns when the thaw came.”\*

\* See MS. for farther particulars of the effects of this storm, also for a narrative of the story of Gilpin Horner, which occupies a prominent part in Sir Walter Scott's *Lay of the Last Minstrel*.

## PARISH OF LANGHOLM.

PRESBYTERY OF LANGHOLM, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.

THE REV. WILLIAM B. SHAW MINISTER.\*

---

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—LANGHOLM no doubt derives its name from the holm or flat land which stretches along the banks of the river Esk upon which it is situated. It may be observed that, generally, the farms on both sides of the river take the name of holm,—such as Broomholm, Murtholm, Stubholm, Meikleholm, Millholm, and Potholm.

*Extent and Boundaries.*—This parish extends 11 miles in length, and 6 in breadth, and contains  $41\frac{1}{4}$  square miles. It is bounded on the north by Westerkirk and Ewes; on the east by Ewes and Canobie; on the south by Canobie; and on the west by Middlebie and Tundergarth. Exclusive of Half-Morton, the parish contains nearly 14,320 acres, 12,800 of which belong to his Grace the Duke of Buccleuch; 1500 to George Maxwell, of Broomholm, Esq.; and the remainder to Mr Matthew Little of Arkinholm, proprietor of half of one of the ten merk lands of Langholm.

*Soil.*—The soil varies very much, as the greater part of the parish is hilly and pastoral. The hills are smooth and verdant to the very summits,—affording a bountiful supply of food to the numerous flocks of sheep which graze upon them. The ground along the banks of the rivers Esk and Ewes is flat, and consists of light loam, and in some places rather inclines to be gravelly. These grounds are highly cultivated, and well sheltered by woods, belts of planting and thriving hedge-rows, and are capable of producing excellent crops of every description. On the south and west side of the town, there are a few orchards which, in favourable seasons, are very productive.

*Meteorology.*—The annual mean temperature of the atmosphere, according to Fahrenheit's thermometer, may be stated about  $44\frac{1}{3}$ . In the whole range of Eskdale, it has been accurately ascertained, that more rain falls by a third than either at Hawick or Selkirk.

\* Drawn up by a Probationer of the Church of Scotland.

This has been attributed to the communication with the Atlantic by the Solway Frith, from which, as being a much larger body of water than the German sea, there naturally arises a much greater degree of exhalation,—which the attraction of the surrounding hills more readily condenses and discharges in rain. The most prevailing winds and heaviest falls of rain are from the south-west, which is exposed to the Solway Frith. Snow lies only for a short period in the low lands.

*Hydrography.*—In the western division, called Wauchopedale, there are three medicinal springs, one sulphureous, and two chalybeate. Unfortunately, no analysis has been made of any of these springs. Persons afflicted with scrofula and eruptions of the skin are said to derive great benefit from drinking the waters of the sulphureous spring.

The river Esk, which gives name to this pastoral district, rises in the high country of Esk water, and has its course among mountains to Broomholm, and passes through the parish of Langholm in a south direction. It is joined by the streams of Black Esk, Megget, Ewes, and Wauchope. Its length is 30 miles in the county of Dumfries, and 38 to the Solway Frith, into which it flows.

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—Greenstone occurs in beds of greywacke and greywacke slate, according to Professor Jameson, in the whole extensive range from Langholm to Wamphray, in the upper district of Annandale. Flötz-trap extends from the bridge of Langholm to Denbie, in the parish of Dalton. In the upper part of the county, between Wamphray and Langholm, it is found on the summit of transition mountains, and generally in the shape of mountain caps. Greywacke slate is worked in the vicinity of Langholm, and in the high parts of the valley of the Esk.

Lead ore has been found on the farm of Westwater, the property of the Duke of Buccleuch, and also on the estate of Broomholm, belonging to George Maxwell, Esq. This vein consists of a considerable quantity of heavy spar, which often attends metallic veins. It stretches across the Esk into the Duke's lands from north-west, in a south-east direction. At Langholm low bridge are several small spar veins running in the transition rock. Some time ago, a trial was made for lead there, and some of that ore was found blended in the spar; and a quarter of a mile below this, the primitive and secondary strata join. At Langholm bridge, the coal formation begins, and continues through the whole of the lower part of the district to the Solway Frith. Between

Langholm bridge and Byreburn, the sandstone is of a grayish white and yellowish gray colour, and contains many vegetable moulds. The limestone, which lies upon the transition rocks and below the coal formation, is bluish gray, and contains petrifications. The slate-clay is grayish black, and contains beds of globular clay ironstone. Below Byreburn, the brownish red-coloured sandstone continues without any alternation to the Solway Frith. Amygdaloid is also found.

*Zoology.*—Among the more rare birds, it may be noticed that the bittern (*Ardea stellaris*), the butcher-bird (*Lanius collurio*), and the king-fisher (*Alcedo ispida*), have been seen in this parish. All the species of our singing birds are to be met with.

*Of Destructive Insects.*—The most common are the *Aphis brassicæ*, or cabbage plant-louse, which commences its ravages about the end of May, and the *Aphis pomi*, the apple-leaf plant-louse, which is found on the young leaves and shoots of apple trees, from the time they bud till the middle of June. The bean plant-louse, the *Aphis fabæ*, is in some seasons very hurtful to the bean crop. It is found on the tops of all the varieties of beans. The glow-worm (*Lampyrus splendidula*) is common in this parish, and is generally seen at the roots of hedges and on road sides.

*Botany.*—There are no rare plants in this parish; but all the common kinds are found. There is a species of willow known by the name of the gray saugh, which grows to a great size, and is much sought after by cabinetmakers, on account of its beautiful red colour, and the polish it takes when applied for making household furniture. Much valuable wood is in this parish,—such as large oaks, ash, beech, plane tree, and forest trees of every kind.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Historical Notices.*—Langholm was erected into a burgh of barony in the year 1610, and designed in the charter Arkinholm. The grant was given by the head of the Nithsdale family (Douglas), who at the time was Lord of the Regality of Eskdale. The same lord, in 1622, granted a new charter of erection to ten cadets of the family, upon condition that each of them should build a house in the town,—in which charter, for the first time, it is designed Langholm; and along with the houses, four of which were only built, he granted to each of them a merk land. Five and a half of these merk lands are still in the possession of Mr Maxwell of Broomholm.

The town of Langholm is built in the bosom of a beautiful wood-

land scene on the banks of the Esk, along the Edinburgh and Carlisle road, and consists of one principal street, which contains some excellent houses, roofed with blue slate got in the neighbourhood. At the market-place stand the Town-Hall and Jail, ornamented with a spire and clock. These buildings were erected on an elegant plan in 1811. The village of New Langholm, half a-mile from the town, is delightfully situated on the opposite side of the river, at the confluence of the Esk and Wauchope, and connected with the former by a stone bridge of three arches. This village consists of about 140 houses built upon a regular plan, of a triangular form, on feus held from the Duke of Buccleuch, and was begun in the year 1778. If the house consists of one story, the feuar gets two acres of land; if of two stories, four acres, at a rent varying according to the quality of the soil and situation, from 3s. to 14s. per acre on leases of fourteen years. They have also a cow pastured on a common at 18s. per annum, solely appropriated for this purpose. The Duke of Buccleuch is superior, and nominates the Baron Bailie.

*Eminent Men.*—Among the eminent men born in this parish, we may mention the following: Mr Maxwell, the ingenious author of an *Essay upon Tune*; John Pasley, Esq. an enterprising and successful London merchant; Admiral Sir Thomas Pasley, his brother, who distinguished himself under Earl Howe, in the defeat of the French fleet, on the 1st of June 1794; William Julius Meikle, the translator of Camoens' *Lusiad*; Colonels Matthew Murray and John Little, who distinguished themselves under the Marquis Cornwallis, in the wars against Tippoo Saib; Captain George Maxwell, R. N. who signalized himself in an engagement with the Dutch, off the Dogger-Bank in 1781; Ralph Irvine, M. D. who died in India, 1795, a young man of great promise in his profession; Colonel C. Pasley of the Royal Engineers, well known for his attainments in literature and science, who has now withdrawn from the active duties of life, and is enjoying his well-earned fame among the scenes of his infancy; and David Irving, LL. D. author of the *Life of George Buchanan*, &c. and librarian to the Faculty of Advocates.

*Chief Land-owners.*—The principal proprietors are, His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch; George Maxwell, Esq. of Broomholm; and Mr Matthew Little of Arkinholm. Sir Patrick Maxwell, Bart. of Springkell, is the sole proprietor of Half Morton, with exception of two farms.

*Parochial Registers.*—The earliest register of baptisms commences in 1706; of marriages, in 1719; and of deaths, in 1704. From which period till the present, the register of baptisms and marriages has been kept with tolerable accuracy; but the register of deaths is wholly wanting for one year.

*Antiquities.*—The Castle of Langholm is merely a square tower or border-house, which was formerly the property of the Armstrongs, a powerful body of freebooters in this district; and is now in ruins. The Castle of Barntallock, near Staplegorton, built of stone and lime, stood on a rocky precipice above the Esk. Under this fortification, rose a burgh of barony, where an annual fair of great resort was held, which, many years ago, was transferred to Langholm. There is a tract of ground which contains somewhat more than twenty-six Scotch acres that still bear the name of the “Borough roods of Staplegorton.” At the junction of the Esk and Ewes, a small fragment of a castle is visible, formerly the property of the Nithsdale family. Wauchope Castle, where the old manse stood, was the first residence of the Lindsays in Scotland. This family came into this country from the manor of Lindsai, in Essex, along with Malcolm Canmore in the beginning of the twelfth century, who conferred upon them the lands of Wauchopedale. This castle is built upon a steep precipice near the river Wauchope, which renders it very romantic,—the opposite banks being covered with a variety of beautiful trees. In former times, it must have been a place of great strength. The fosse and other out-works can readily be traced, even at this distance of time. Mr Pennant, in examining the site of the old Castle of Broomholm, which was taken down about ninety years ago, was of opinion, that the mansion-house of Broomholm stands in a situation which was the heart of an old British town, answering to Cæsar’s description, “Oppidum sylvis paludibusque munitum.”—The Roman road of communication between the encampments of Netherbie and Castle O’er, or Overbie, in Eskdalemuir, can still be traced. This road enters Langholm parish at the south-east corner, crosses the Esk a short way above Broomholm, and runs north-west till it enters the parish of Westerkirk.

*Coins.*—On the farm of Broomholm, about fifty years ago, some of Mr Maxwell’s servants found six denarii aurei, three of which were of Nero, two of Vespasian, and one of Domitian,—all in high preservation. A few years later, on the same line of road, one Otho, and two denarii aurei, were found near Wauchope bridge. They



are in the possession of the family of the late Mr Little, Baron Bailie of Langholm.

*Witches.*—Near the old Castle of Langholm, a place is pointed out where several reputed witches were burnt in the last century. It is told of the Eskdale witches, some of whom acted as midwives, that they had the power of transferring the labour of child-birth from the mother to the father.

*Branks.*—This was an instrument of punishment kept by the chief magistrate, for restraining the tongue. The *branks* was in the form of a head-piece, that opens and incloses the head of the culprit,—while an iron, sharp as a chisel, enters the mouth and subdues the more dreadful weapon within. Dr Plot, the learned historian of Staffordshire, has given a minute description and figure of this instrument; and adds, that he looks upon it “as much to be preferred to the ducking-stool, which not only endangers the health of the party, but also gives the tongue liberty ’twixt every dip, to neither of which this is at all liable.” When husbands unfortunately happened to have scolding wives, they subjected the heads of the offenders to this instrument, and led them through the town exposed to the ridicule of the people.

It may be mentioned, that it was on Langholm Holm, “that Johnnie Armstrong of Gilnockie, and his gallant companie of thirty-six men, when going to meet King James V., ran their horse and brak their spears, when the ladies lookit frae their lofty windows,—saying, God send our men well back again.” At Carlenrig, near Moss Paul, on the road betwixt Langholm and Hawick, where John and his gallant followers were executed, their graves are pointed out in the solitary churchyard of that place.

*Modern Buildings.*—The principal mansion-houses are, Langholm Lodge, belonging to His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch, and Broomholm House, the residence of George Maxwell, Esq. Both of these residences are delightfully situated on the banks of the Esk, in the immediate neighbourhood of Langholm. Near to Langholm Lodge, there is a handsome bridge of 100 feet span, which highly improves the prospect, and is an object of great attraction to travellers as they enter the town by the north.

### III.—POPULATION.

The population in 1755 amounted to	-	1833
1791,	-	2540
1801,	-	2536
1811,	-	2636
1821,	-	2957
And in 1831, males 1269, females 1407,		2676

Of that number 1127 reside in the Old Town, 1137 in the New Town, and 412 in the country.

Average of births for the last 7 years,	-	45
marriages,	-	15
deaths,	-	40
Number of families,	-	576
inhabited houses,	-	407
uninhabited,	-	8
building,	-	2
families chiefly employed in agriculture,	-	36
trade,	-	260
all other families,	-	280

There are two blind persons, and two fatuous in the parish.

The numbers employed in the different kinds of retail trade and handicraft are as follows:—brewers, 1; bakers, 6; blacksmiths, 6; coopers, 2; candlemaker, 1; distiller, 1; dyer and thread-maker, 1; clockmakers, 4; fleshers, 4; shoemakers, 6; tinsmiths, 1; joiners, carpenters, and glaziers, 10; house-painters, 2; tailors, 8; shop-keepers, 15; sawyers, 4; saddlers, 2; barbers and hair-dressers, 2; masons, 6; cloggers, 5; tanners, 1; skinnners, 1; millers, 2; weavers, 260; stockingmakers, 50; stationer and printer, 1. Number of professional persons: clergymen, 3; bankers, 2; surgeons, 2; writers, 3; teachers, 5 male, and 4 female.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

##### *Agriculture and Rural Economy.*—

The number of acres arable in the parish may be computed at	1894
Under plantations of various kinds,	420
Not in tillage, but affording excellent pasture,	12006

*Rent of Land.*—In this large parish, where there is so much low and high ground, the rent per acre must vary accordingly. The land in the immediate neighbourhood of the town lets so high as L. 2, 10s. and L. 1, 5s. per acre. No sheep-farmer is much inclined to inform strangers either of the extent of their farms, the numbers of their flocks, or the rent they pay. The grazing of a milk cow for the season costs L. 1, 10s., and the half of that for a calf or stirk. A full-grown sheep, 5s.

*Rate of Wages.*—The rate of labour for country artisans is as follows: In summer, joiner, without victuals, per day, 1s. 9d. to 2s.; masons, ditto, 2s. to 2s. 6d.; tailors, with victuals, as it is common for them to go to the houses of their employers, 1s. 6d.; day-labourers, viz. dikers, ditchers, &c. 1s. 6d.; ploughmen, with board for the half year, and other full-grown male farm-servants, from L. 7 to L. 8; female servants for agricultural purposes, with board, from L. 3, 3s. to L. 4. In harvest, for the space of five weeks, a man receives L. 2, 5s.; a woman, for the same period, from L. 2

to L. 1, 10s.; females, for hoeing turnips, potatoes, or making hay, 9d. per day. Shepherds are generally allowed the grazing of fifty head of stock, a free house, and a certain quantity of meal, with the pasture of a cow.

*Rental.*—The valued rent of this parish, exclusive of Half Morton, as stated in the county cess-book, is 9321 merks Scots, equal to L. 2000 Sterling: Half Morton is valued at 1650 merks, or L. 972 Sterling,—making in whole nearly L. 3000 Sterling.

*Live stock.*—The common breed of sheep is the Cheviot. This breed is found to be well adapted both to the soil and climate, and is very profitable, for the fine quality of the wool. The greatest possible attention has been paid to the improvement of this breed, and the general mode is by purchasing tups from the Cheviots, and from improvers of the stock, at the tup fair of Hawick. It cannot be very accurately ascertained how many thousands of sheep are pastured in this parish; but the number may be about 9000. The stock of the whole of this district is generally sold at the following places, viz. lambs, at St Bothwells, Langholm, and Lockerbie; hogs, at Applebie and Stagshaw; wedders, at Stagshaw and Askrigg; and draught ewes, at Brough Hill, Kettlewell, and York. The average prices obtained this year for Cheviot stock per head were, for wedders, L. 1, 1s. 6d., ewes, 17s. 6d. and lambs, 9s. 6d.

The common ingredients for smearing are tar and butter, with sometimes a mixture of palm oil. When tar and butter are used, the proportions are one stone of butter (16 English pounds,) to a gallon of tar (8 Scots pints.) By the common rule of smearing, a stone of butter to a gallon of tar should smear 30 hogs, and from 40 to 45 older sheep. The wool of young sheep takes five fleeces to the stone of 24 lb. English, and older sheep from six to seven. Thus the average of a whole clip may be  $6\frac{1}{2}$ . The wool-dealers from Halifax, Huddersfield, and Leeds, are the chief buyers. The wool-market is so changeable, that the average of the price per stone is not easily fixed.

The common breed of cattle in Eskdale is the Galloway kind, to the rearing of which great attention is paid. In a letter of the late Rev. Dr Brown of Eskdalemuir, he says, “the stirks, which are a very considerable source of emolument, are generally sought after by dealers between Michaelmas and Martinmas, carried to the Dumfries market, and sold to the Galloway farmers, who are fond of them, as being large and fat from our grassy pastures; so that after they are kept in Galloway for a year, they can

be sorted with those bred in Galloway that are a year and sometimes two years older than themselves, and passed off as such in Carlisle and other market towns on the English borders. Hence the reason, that our stirks are higher priced than many others, and the reason why very good ones fetch so high a price." The numbers reared in the parish have not been correctly ascertained. The average prices for stock of this kind may be stated as nearly as possible as follows: Two year old stots from L. 3 to L. 5; three year old do. from L. 3 to L. 7, 10s. and L. 8, 10s.; four year old do. from L. 6, 6s. to L. 10 and L. 12. Cows vary in price according to size, age, and condition, from L. 6 to L. 10. Farm-horses able for their work, and from three to six years of age, or even eight, can be purchased at present from L. 18 to L. 30; some fine animals of the Clydesdale breed brought, at the last Dumfries Rood fair, the high prices of L. 35 and L. 40. A very considerable number of swine is fed in this parish, which, when cured, find a ready market at Newcastle, Longtown, and Carlisle.

*Husbandry.*—In the lowlands all the modern improvements in agriculture, so far as the soil will admit, have been introduced most successfully by the enterprising tenants of the district. On the high pastoral grounds, every thing has been done that draining and enclosing can effect.

Leases on the Duke of Buccleuch's farms are generally for the space of nine years. Leases of this length are supposed to be equally favourable to the landlord and tenant, as affording both the same opportunities either of a rise or deduction of rent. The number of acres in some of these farms is 4464; and the rent about L. 670. The state of farm-buildings and enclosures in this parish cannot be surpassed, as the Duke affords every facility for improvements and for the comfort of his tenantry.

*Manufactures.*—About forty-seven years ago, a cotton manufactory was established in New Langholm, the machinery of which contains 3552 mule spindles, with other suitable apparatus. The original cost was L. 2600; and it employs at present from 90 to 100 persons. Woollen yarns, stockings, stuffs, serges, black and white plaids, which are worn by both rich and poor, are also manufactured here, but to no great extent. There is a distillery for whisky on a small scale; and a brewery. Langholm enjoys great local advantages for manufactories, having abundance of coal and peat in the neighbourhood, besides a copious supply of water fit to turn very powerful machinery.

## V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Fairs.*—A weekly market is held at Langholm for purchasing the ordinary necessaries of life; and there are four annual fairs, one of which is the greatest in the south of Scotland, for lambs, and is held generally on the 26th of July, the other three for hiring farm-servants, and the sale of stock which is not required to be kept over winter.

*Means of Communication.*—In this district, the roads and bridges are all kept in the best order. The great road from Edinburgh to Carlisle passes through the town of Langholm, affording a ready communication from the capitals of both kingdoms, as the mail runs by this road daily. There is also an excellent road which leads west to Annan. There are two country roads, one of which crosses the Esk at Langholm, and leads up into Eskdale north-west, and the other south-east by a good bridge over the Tarras into Canobie. These roads are kept in repair from the assessment which is levied in lieu of Statute Labour. Another road is made up Wauchopedale, which opens a ready communication from Langholm to Lockerbie, Lochmaben, and Dumfries. A coach now runs upon this road, alternately, from Dumfries to Langholm. There was a bridge built across the Esk, in 1780, by subscription, consisting of three arches; it connects the old and new towns of Langholm. A little farther to the north, there is another bridge of two arches, upon the post road, over the Ewes. These bridges stand nearly parallel, and are situated within sixty yards of each other. About half a-mile south of Langholm, there is another of three arches,—besides three others, which claim no particular notice.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—Langholm parish comprehends the ancient parishes of Staplegorton, Wauchope, and the half of Morton. William de Cuniburc, who possessed the manor of Staplegorton in the twelfth century, granted to the monks of Kelso, the church of Staplegorton with all the lands belonging to it. This grant was confirmed by William the Lion, and also by Walter, the Bishop of Glasgow, in 1232. In the fourteenth century, when the monks of Kelso made an estimate of their property, they held the rectory of this church, which was valued at L. 13, 6s. 8d. They had also, within this manor, a carrucate of land at Duglyn, which brought them yearly five merks. The monks held this rectory till the Reformation, when not only Staplegorton, but several other of the churches of the monks of Kelso, were transferred to the Earl of Roxburghe. Some time after this, the King bought the advowson and the tithes

of this parish from the Earl, and transferred them in 1637 to the Bishop of Glasgow.

Langholm was erected into a parish in the year 1703, and became the seat of a presbytery in 1743, by disjoining the five parishes of Eskdale from Middlebie, and adding to them the parish of Castleton, which was formerly in the presbytery of Jedburgh. The church was originally built in 1703, and since that time has been rebuilt twice, viz. in 1747 and 1779. The present church is convenient enough for the greater part of the parish, with the exception of Half Morton. It is not, however, in good repair, being both damp and uncomfortable. It is situated upon a rising ground on the north of the town, which renders it extremely cold in winter; and when frost sets in, it is by no means easy of access to the infirm. It may contain about 800 sitters.

The manse was rebuilt in 1793, and at present is in good repair. The glebe consists of fifty acres, twenty of which are arable. The amount of stipend is 16 chalders, half meal, half barley, payable in money, according to the highest fiar prices of the county, with L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements. Two augmentations have been granted, since 1792.

There are two Dissenting meeting-houses in the parish,—one belonging to the United Associate Synod, and the other to the Relief. The chapel of the United Associate congregation was originally built in 1788, and rebuilt in 1822, and may contain about 500 sitters. The preacher has an allowance of L. 120, and finds a house for himself. The Relief meeting-house, a small building, was founded in 1807. The congregation allows the preacher L. 80, out of which he provides himself with a dwelling-house. The number of Dissenters in the parish who attend these meeting-houses may amount to 400, but their congregations are considerably enlarged from the neighbouring parishes. There are only one Roman Catholic, and two Episcopalians in the parish.

The number of communicants at the last celebration of the Lord's Supper in the Established Church amounted to 400. There are two Sabbath schools, one of which, taught by the Burgher clergyman, with assistants, is attended by more than 300 children; the other is conducted by the Relief clergyman. They are supported by collections made in the chapels.

*Education.*—There are two endowed schools in this parish,—one situated in New Langholm, having the maximum salary, and the legal accommodations; the other at Broomholm, endowed by a

mortification of L. 600 left by the late Captain Maxwell, for teaching twenty poor scholars. There are seven other schools,—four of which are taught by females, where children of both sexes are instructed in the elements of reading. In the parochial school, conducted by Mr Hannah, a most efficient teacher, six of his scholars are learning Latin at 6s. per quarter; one Greek at 7s. 6d. do.; three, French at 10s. 6d.; English reading at 2s. 6d. do., with writing, 3s. 6d., and with arithmetic, 4s. 6d.; pure and mixed mathematics, 7s. 6d.; book-keeping (complete system) one guinea. The average number of scholars attending the parochial school for the last two years is 75; the average numbers that attend the whole of the others, 200. It is supposed that there are some few who can neither read nor write above six years of age, but the number cannot be correctly ascertained. The people in general are strongly alive to the benefits of education; and if there should chance to be a melancholy example of one or two individuals who cannot read or write, they must have come into the parish in that state of ignorance from another country. There is no part of the parish so distant from some of the schools as to prevent attendance. There are no additional schools required. The facilities of education have made a wonderful and visible change upon the conduct and morals of the people.

*Literature.*—There are two proprietary or subscription libraries, —one instituted in 1800, commonly called the Langholm Library, and the other, first established in 1815, known by the name of the Tradesmen's Library, or New Langholm Library. The first of these libraries has 36 members, who contribute 10s. annually. The late Mr Telford, civil-engineer, a native of the district, left the handsome donation of L. 1000 Sterling to the Langholm Library. Most of the standard works in English literature, and the popular periodicals of the present day, are found in this library.

*Friendly Society.*—A friendly society was instituted in Langholm in the year 1782. The entry money is 10s., with a quarterly payment of 1s. Sick members, upon the certificate of a surgeon that they are unable to work and confined to bed, receive 4s. 6d. per week; if able to walk about, though not able to work, 3s. 6d. per week. If their illness continue one year and a-half, they are then put upon the superannuated list at 2s. per week for life. When a member dies, L. 2 are allowed to defray funeral expenses; and 1s. from each member is given to the widow or children of the deceased. This Society has been of great advantage to the labouring classes.

There is also a Farming Society, which meets at Langholm once a-month. Each member pays an annual subscription of L. 1, 5s. from which a fund is raised for premiums,—which are given at the annual competition to the best breeders of stock within the district.—There is a Savings bank in this parish.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The number of poor, including children, who are upon the poors' roll, is 62,—besides a very considerable number (between 30 and 40) who receive occasional relief. The sum distributed last year, including all kinds of charity, was nearly L. 400 Sterling. Of this sum, L. 8 per annum are allowed to some; to others not more than L. 2. Two fatuous persons receive each annually L. 6, 14s. The average, as nearly as possible, may be L. 4 per annum to each poor person. Poor rates were instituted in this parish in the year 1773, and the assessment for last year was L. 320. The rate is 8d. per pound, or nearly 3½ per cent. The average weekly collection at the church door amounts to 15s. The dues of proclamation of marriage are, for three times in one day, L. 1, 1s.; two days, 8s. 8d.; and for three days, 5s. 6d. Fines for immoral conduct, irregular marriages, &c. all go to the poor funds,—except the session clerk's fees for proclamation. About L. 90 have at different times been bequeathed to the poor of this parish for the education of poor children, and other religious purposes, which sum the session has placed out at interest upon good security. No public begging is allowed in this parish, or even within the bounds of the presbytery. It is the general belief, that over Scotland the independent spirit of abstaining from seeking parochial relief is fast dying away; but whether it is so in the parish of Langholm it would be hazardous to risk an opinion.

*Inns.*—In this parish, which contains a population of 2676 souls, there are no less than eight respectable inns and twelve inferior alehouses,—a number much more than sufficient to supply the wants both of travellers and of the inhabitants. No doubt, these houses must tend to the deterioration of the morals of the people; still the general character of the people is decidedly sober and religious.

*Fuel.*—Peat is abundantly supplied, from inexhaustible mosses, within two miles of the town, at 1s. 6d. and 2s. per cart load; and coal, from Canobie, is purchased at the pit from 2s. 6d. to 3s. per cart load of 24 Carlisle pecks, and is laid down at Langholm from 4s. 6d. to 5s. the load.

November 1835.



# PARISH OF WESTERKIRK.

PRESBYTERY OF LANGHOLM, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.

THE REV. JAMES GREEN, MINISTER.

---

## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THIS parish has been supposed to take its name from the manor of Westerker, which, by modern appellation, is now called Westerkirk. This name is derived from the British *Caer*, or fortlet, which stood near the hamlet of Westerker, upon the Megget water, a little above its confluence with the Esk. In Scoto-Saxon times, “this strength” was named Wester Caer or Ker, to distinguish it from the eastern Caer which is still visible on the farm of Elfgill. There is another supposition that Westerkirk derived its name from being the most westerly of the five kirks of Eskdale. The present parish of Eskdalemuir formed part of Westerkirk, till 1703, when it was erected into a separate parish.

*Boundaries.*—The parish is bounded, on the west, by Eskdalemuir; on the east, by Ewes; and on the south by Langholm and Tundergarth. In length, it extends nearly 10 miles, and in breadth from 5 to 6. It contains 27,307 Scotch acres, or 38½ square miles. The valuation of the parish is 10,808 merks Scotch, or L. 2570, 17s.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The appearance is hilly, with the exception of the narrow vale along the Esk, which runs through the parish. Some of the hills are covered with heath; but in general they are green and dry, and afford excellent pasture for sheep.

*Soil.*—The soil is various; the low grounds along the banks of the Esk consist of a light loam, and produce abundant crops both of wheat, barley, and oats. The soil on the rising ground is a deep strong loam, with an intermixture of stones. A considerable quantity of moss is found upon the top of many of the hills.

The climate, though somewhat keen and moist, is by no means unhealthy, and the people live to a good old age. The prevalent complaints are consumption and rheumatism, the latter brought on by the sudden alternations from heat to cold.

*Hydrography.*—The Black Esk, which divides this parish on the south from that of Eskdalemuir on the north, for nearly one mile, falls into the White Esk, at a place called the King Pool,\* not far from the farm-house of Bailiehill. The junction of these two rivers forms the Esk, that runs through the parish, by many picturesque meanderings towards the south-east, for the space of seven miles till it reaches Dowglen-Cleugh; then it runs along the north-side of the parish almost in the same direction till Craigh-Cleugh, a small stream, which divides this parish from Langholm on the south, as Dowglen does on the north side of the Esk. Within the bounds of this parish, thirteen burns or rivulets, from the hills on the south side of the river, and nine from those on the north side, besides the Megget and Stennis water, fall into the Esk. The Megget and Stennis have their sources on the south side of a ridge of mountains which divide the county of Dumfries from Roxburgh and Teviotdale. These rivers are separated by a ridge of hills, and after running southward for six miles, they join at a place called Crooks, and about half a-mile from this place fall into the Esk, in the neighbourhood of Waukmill.

*Mineralogy.*—The prevailing rocks in this parish are, greywacke and greywacke slate. Secondary trap is found on the summit of the transition mountains, and generally in the shape of mountain caps. Shell marl is abundant in the farm of Megdale, the property of his Grace the Duke of Buccleuch. The pit is not of easy access, being situated on the declivity of a hill. On that account, the marl is not much used as a manure.

An antimony mine, the only one in Britain, though not at present in operation, was discovered in greywacke, at Glendinning, the property of Sir Frederick Johnston, Bart. of Westerhall, in the year 1760, but was not regularly worked till 1793, from which time to 1798, it produced 100 tons of regulus of antimony, valued at L. 84 per ton, or L. 8400 Sterling. The ore, which was in a state of sulphuret, yielded about fifty per cent. The vein, which seldom exceeded twenty inches in thickness, contained blende, calcareous spar, and quartz. While in operation, forty people were employed, who received from L. 23 to L. 26 annually, besides the grazing of a cow at L. 1, and hay for fodder during the winter at 10s.

*Botany.*—There are no particular plants found in this parish, of an interesting kind. Around the pleasure-grounds of Westerhall,

\* It is said that in former times a Pictish King was drowned in this pool,—hence the name.

there are a great many trees of a large size. Some of the ashes are from 11 feet to 12 in circumference. The oak, the elm, the plane, the horse chestnut, and every other kind of forest trees seem to grow with great vigour. There is a considerable quantity of natural wood along the banks of the Esk; besides the thriving plantations of Craigs and Westerhall. We cannot omit to mention a row of thirteen beautiful trees along the west side of the churchyard, which are highly ornamental.

*Fishes.*—Salmon, sea-trout, herling, and the common burn-trout, are very plentiful in the different streams. Salmon, in former times, were very abundant in the Esk; but are now considerably diminished by means of a *call* made across the river at Netherbie, to supply water for the mills which Sir James Graham has erected at Longtown. Unless there is a great flood, the salmon cannot get over this barrier. The Esk, the Megget, and the Stennis water afford excellent sport to the angler.

Game of all kinds is most abundant. The black-cock, grouse, partridge, and pheasant are found in great numbers. The woodcock and other migratory birds are seen in their seasons. Indeed, all the species of common birds are found in the woods around Westerhall; and the curlew, lapwing, plover, and snipe on the hills. The bittern, though rarely, is sometimes seen.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Parochial Registers.*—The earliest date of baptisms and marriages is 1693; and of deaths, 1804. From the above dates to the present time, these registers have been regularly kept.

*Land-owners.*—The valuations of the principal land-owners, as stated in the stent roll, are, in merks Scotch, as follows:—His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch, 5863; Sir Frederick G. Johnston, Bart. of Westerhall, 2425; Mrs Dirom, of Craigs, 700; Sir Pulteney Malcolm, of Dowglen, 225. The only resident heritor is Sir Pulteney Malcolm. Sir Frederick Johnston occasionally resides during the shooting season.

*Modern Buildings.*—Westerhall, the ancient seat of the Johnstones, is delightfully situated, being enclosed with wood, and surrounded with precipitous hills. The other buildings are Burnfoot and Hopesrigg, the residence of Mr Borthwick, one of the most enterprising tenants of the Duke of Buccleuch. We cannot omit mentioning, also, the mausoleum or family vault of the Johnstones, in the churchyard, which is a piece of excellent architecture. It is built in a circular form, and finished with a handsome dome, sup-

ported by fluted columns of the Doric order, and highly ornamented with a richly carved frieze.

*Eminent Men.*—This parish is very remarkable as being the birth-place of men who have signalized themselves in every department of literature and science.—Mr Pulteney, who married the Countess of Bath, and the keen opposer of the administration of Sir Robert Walpole; Governor Johnston, who was celebrated as an officer and a senator; Sir James Johnstone, who represented in many Parliaments, the Dumfries-shire burghs; Sir John Malcolm, well known as an officer, a statesman, and an author, to whose memory a monument is now erecting on Langholm hill, the foundation-stone of which was laid with masonic honours in September last by Sir James Graham, Bart. of Netherbie; and Thomas Telford, Esq. an eminent civil-engineer, and the constructor of many public works, the unperishable monuments of his genius, who was born of humble parentage in this parish, in the year 1755. The last named individual began life as a common mason in his native parish, and for years had no professional fame except the neatness with which he lettered tombstones. In the churchyard, there is a simple stone, erected to his father's memory, the inscription upon which was amongst the first of his attempts in this line. It would occupy too much space in a work of this kind, to give a lengthened sketch of his rising merit. We may state, however, that in London, his first employer was Sir William Chambers, while building Somerset House,—who soon discovered his talents, and brought him into notice. The Menai and Conway bridges, the Caledonian Canal, the St Katharine Docks, will ever remain monuments of his architectural genius. He died at his house in Abingdon Street, Westminster, in the seventy-ninth year of his age. He was buried in Westminster Abbey.

*Antiquities.*—On a neck of land between the Esk and the Megget, and part of the farm of Westerker, there are several whinstones placed erect in the ground, which have every appearance of the remains of a Druidical temple. There are many vestiges of Roman encampments on the tops of the hills in the north-west end of the parish, which seem to have been out-stations of the Roman camp of Castle O'er in the south end of Eskdalemuir. Several others can be traced along the banks of the Esk, which in all probability formed the chain of communication between the camp of Castle O'er and the one at Netherbie, near Longtown.—A great number of *burians* are in this parish, of a circular form, and mea-

suring from 36 to 50 yards in diameter. These are supposed by some antiquaries to be remains of Pictish encampments; while others are of opinion that they were merely places of strength into which the people collected their cattle at night for security from the English borderers. There is also a third conjecture, that they were for the purpose of protecting the cattle during the night from the ravages of the wild beasts, when the country was covered with wood. This last supposition is perhaps the most correct. On the farm of Enzieholm, there are vestiges of an old fortification of a triangular form. It has the appearance of a place of great antiquity, and of considerable strength. No conjecture at this distance of time can be formed, either as to the time when it was built, or by whom it was possessed. There are remains of an old castle at Glendinning, and of another at Westerhall.

### III.—POPULATION.

Amount of population in 1755,	549
1791,	655
1801,	638
1811,	607
1821,	672
1831,	642 viz. 297 males, and 345 females.
Number of families in the parish,	125
chiefly engaged in agriculture,	68
trade, manufactures, &c.	23
all other families,	34
inhabited houses,	117
uninhabited,	4
building,	1
The yearly average of births for the last 7 years is	20
marriages,	6
deaths,	13

There is one blind person in the parish, and five fatuous; but none of them receive aid from the parochial funds.

*Character of the People.*—The tenantry of this parish bear an excellent character for integrity and honour. As farmers, they are skilful and industrious, and spare no expense either in the improvement of their stock or of their farms. The lower classes are sober and intelligent. The generality of them are fond of reading; and, as they have an ample supply of books, the shepherds in particular have acquired a degree of knowledge and information beyond what might have been expected from their situation in life. In their dress they have nothing peculiar; the black and white plaid worn round the shoulders is universally used. No class of people are more contented with their situation. Indeed, the superior comfort of the lower classes in this parish, and in all the extensive pastoral and agricultural districts of the numerous parishes of which the Duke of Buccleuch is the sole or principal proprietor, obviously arises from the wise

and liberal policy which has characterized the management of the Buccleuch property for ages. That family have invariably let their extensive possessions to tenants on such terms as secure their comfort and independence.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

##### *Agriculture and Rural Economy.*—

The number of acres arable, and of meadow land, may be computed at . . .	1560
not in tillage, but affording excellent pasture, . . .	25547
under wood and plantations, . . .	200

*Rent of Land.*—As the arable land in this parish is uniformly let with the hill pasture, the rent per acre cannot be accurately ascertained. There are fifteen stock-farmers in the parish whose farms would average nearly 1800 acres each, and who employ, as shepherds and labourers in agriculture, 59 individuals. The grazing of an ox or cow costs from L. 3, 10s. to L. 4; and that of a full-grown sheep, 5s.

*Live Stock.*—The only breed of cattle in this parish is the Galloway. It is found well adapted for the pasturage, rises to a good size, finds a ready market, and brings high prices. The number of sheep grazed may be estimated at nearly 18,000, which are all of the Cheviot breed,—to the improvement of which every attention is paid.

*Raw Produce.*—The whole of the grain, &c. raised in this parish is consumed by the growers in maintaining their families and servants. Wool and sheep are the staple commodities. The reclaiming of waste land by draining and building stone dikes, is carried to its utmost extent. Farm buildings are all good. No obstacle to improvements arises, in this parish, either from want of capital or of encouragement by the proprietors.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Langholm is the nearest market-town, distant about five miles. It is also the post-town.

The public roads are all good, and kept in excellent repair, and afford ready communication in every direction. No mail or stage-coach passes through the parish.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The manor of Westerker, with the advowson of the church, belonged to the family of Soulis, during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. Upon the forfeiture of John de Soulis, Robert I. granted, in 1321, to the monks of Melrose the half of the barony of Westerker, to be held in free forest, and also the patronage. The monks retained the possession, till the Reformation. Before the Reformation, there was an established chapel, dedicated to St Martin, at Bogkin, in this parish, under

the mother church. Adam de Glendonyng mortified, in 1391, some lands in the barony of Hawick for the support of this chaplainry, for the safety of the souls of James, late Earl of Douglas, and Sir James Simon of Glendonyng, his brother-in-law; also, for his own soul, Margaret his wife, and their children. Bartholomew de Glendonyng, grandson of the granter, took orders in the church, and was presented to the chapel; but Andrew, the Bishop of Glasgow, deprived him of his charge, in 1459, on account of non-residence.

The church was built in 1788; it is in excellent repair, and may contain nearly 700 sitters. It is very centrally placed,—the farthest distance being five miles. The number of communicants is 170. The manse was built in 1783, and substantially repaired, along with the office houses, in 1821. The glebe contains twenty acres of good arable ground, and is well enclosed. The stipend, as augmented in 1820, is 14 chalders, half meal, half barley, at the highest fiar prices of the county,—with the pasturage of 44 sheep on the neighbouring farm of Hertonhill.

There is not a Dissenting meeting-house in this parish; and the number of Dissenters is, 14 Burghers, who attend a chapel at Langholm, and 2 Cameronians, who occasionally hear sermon at Ettrick.

*Education.*—There is only one parochial school,—with the maximum salary, and the legal accommodations. The branches of instruction taught are, English, writing, arithmetic, geography, Latin, and Greek. The average number attending the school in summer is from 40 to 45, and in winter 70. The school is centrally placed, and there is no need of an additional one. The probable amount of school fees received may vary from L. 21 to L. 22. There is also, a small school kept by a woman, who teaches English and sewing. At the village of Jamestown, where the miners and their families formerly resided, sometimes a school is opened for the winter months. The people are alive to the benefits of education; and there is a visible change in their conduct and morals since the facilities of education were increased. There is not an individual betwixt six and fifteen years of age who cannot read and write.

*Literature.*—In the year 1795, a library was instituted in this parish, which contains many valuable works, several of which were presented by the late Mr Telford, civil-engineer. So much was he impressed with the advantages arising from select libraries, that he bequeathed to this library the handsome sum of L. 1000, the

interest of which is annually to be laid out in the purchase of books. The sole management of this bequest is vested in the minister and kirk-session.

*Charitable Institutions.*—A friendly society was instituted in the year 1789, which has all along been in a flourishing condition, and is of great benefit to sick members. At this time, it has a capital of L. 300. The terms of admission are regulated according to the age of the applicants. The quarterly contribution from each member is 1s. 7d. The sick receive weekly for three months 4s., and after that period 2s. 6d. The allowance for funeral expenses is L. 1, 10s., and each member gives the widow, or nearest relation, 1s. There is no saving bank; and the nearest is at Langholm.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—Poor rates were instituted in this parish in 1773. The assessment for the last year amounted to L. 80, or about 4s. 6d. per cent. upon the valued rental. The weekly collections average 5s.;—from which sum L. 1, 10s. is paid quarterly to the assessment. There is also a sum of L. 230 at interest in the bank, with another of L. 100, the interest of which is given to the schoolmaster for registering all the children baptized in the church. The dues of proclamation, fines exacted for irregular conduct, and fees for the use of the mortcloth, go all to the session funds,—except one shilling, which is given to the session-clerk for every marriage. The number of poor on the roll is 18, besides a few who occasionally receive relief. Perhaps there is no parish in Scotland where the wants of the poor are so well supplied, or their comfort better looked after. No public begging is allowed. None, except real objects of charity, or those upon whom misfortune has suddenly fallen, seek relief from the poors' funds.

*Inns.*—There is only one inn in the parish.

*Fuel.*—Peat is very much used, and costs per cart load 2s. Many families use coal, which is brought from the pits at Canobie, a distance of twelve miles, by a very good road.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Great improvements have taken place, in this parish, since 1793. Every new improvement in agriculture has been introduced that promised to be advantageous. In the improvement of pasture ground by draining and building of dikes, great advantages have resulted both in drying the sheep walks and in affording shelter,—so that the diseases, poke and rot, formerly common, are now almost unknown. The facilities to markets, by good roads in all directions, have been greatly increased.

November 1835.



## PARISH OF EWES.

PRESBYTERY OF LANGHOLM, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.

THE REV. ROBERT SHAW, MINISTER.\*

---

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THIS parish was anciently called Ewesdale, which has now been contracted into Ewes, the name of the river, from the Celtic *Uisge*, signifying water.

*Extent, Boundaries.*—This pastoral and mountainous parish is situated in the north-east corner of the county, and is bounded on the south by Langholm. It extends 8 miles in length, and about  $5\frac{1}{2}$  in breadth, and contains 24469 Scotch acres, or  $34\frac{1}{2}$  square miles.

*Soil, &c.*—The appearance of the country on both sides of the Ewes is hilly; and the hills are nearly green, with the exception of some small pieces covered with heath, which afford both protection and food for the various species of game.

In the low land along the banks of the river, the soil is light and gravelly; and on the high grounds, it has a tendency to a deep loam. In favourable seasons, good crops of oats, barley, potatoes, and turnips are raised on the low grounds.

The climate upon the whole is salubrious, and no epidemic was ever known to prevail in the parish. The common diseases are, rheumatism, consumption, and catarrhs, arising from the dampness of the climate, or the sudden changes from heat to cold.

*Rivers.*—The water of Ewes runs through the parish for eight miles, has its source near Moss Paul, in the northern extremity of the country, and falls into the Esk at Langholm, two miles below its southern boundary, dividing it nearly into two parts. In the east part of the parish, the water of Tarras takes its rise, and, running almost south-west, falls also into the Esk, about three miles below the town of Langholm.

*Mineralogy.*—The prevailing rocks in this parish belong to the transition class, and of these the most abundant are greywacke and greywacke slate. Greenstone also occurs, and on the summits of some

\* Drawn up by a Probationer of the Church of Scotland.

of the transition mountains, secondary or floetz trap rocks occur. It is supposed coal may be found in the parish, but hitherto no trial has been made.

*Zoology.*—Salmon in the spawning season are found in the rivers. The sea trout, the herling, and particularly the burn trout, are caught in great numbers. Black-cock, grouse, partridge, pheasant, hare, and rabbits are most abundant. The woodcock, curlew, plover, lapwing, and snipe are also plentiful. The fox, the polecat, weasel, and hedgehog are common.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Parochial Registers.*—Session records were begun to be kept in this parish so early as 1646. In the same year, the registration of baptisms and marriages commenced; and that of deaths in 1717. From 1646 to 1680 the records of baptisms and marriages have been correctly kept. In 1694, they were resumed by the prelates, and since that time to the present they have been kept with much accuracy, and preserved with great care. They are voluminous, and contain much curious and interesting information regarding the early discipline of the church.

*Land-owners.*—The chief land-owners are, His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch, Mr Elliot of Arkleton, Mr Beattie of Muckledale, and Mr Lamb of Cooms and Middlemass.

There are no resident heritors in the parish, neither are there any modern buildings, mansion-houses, or manufactories.

*Antiquities.*—The only antiquity to be found in the parish is the remains of a small station, which evidently appears from its formation to be either Saxon or Pictish. No medals, coins, arms, or other antiquities have been discovered.

## III.—POPULATION.

The population in 1755 amounted to	392
1791	320
1801	358
1811	367
1821	314
1831	335, of whom 171 are males, and 164 females.
Number of families in the parish,	57
chiefly engaged in agriculture,	32
in trade,	4
all other families not comprehended above,	21
inhabited houses,	53
uninhabited houses,	2
The yearly average of births for the last seven years,	5
marriages,	2
deaths,	5

*Character of the People.*—The people appear happy and contented with their lot, and enjoy in a reasonable degree both the comforts and necessaries of life. The tenants are all industrious,

exemplary, and regular in their attendance on public worship. An air of satisfaction and contentment pervades their dwellings, and the heart of every philanthropist must rejoice to know that they enjoy a competent share of the blessings of life. No poaching of game prevails in this parish.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

##### *Agriculture.*—

The number of acres arable,	-	-	-	-	1100
not in tillage, but affording sound pasture,	-	-	-	-	23169
under wood and plantations,	-	-	-	-	200

*Rent of Land.*—As the low and high lands are let together, the rent per acre cannot be accurately known. The grazing of an ox or cow may be estimated at from L. 3 to L. 3, 10s., and a full-grown sheep at 5s.

*Live Stock.*—In all this district, the Galloway breed of cattle is preferred. They are hardy, thrive well on the pastures, find a ready market, and bring good prices. The number of sheep pastured may be about 18,000. They are all of the Cheviot breed, and every attention is paid to their improvement. All modern improvements in husbandry have been introduced, and draining and building dikes on the high grounds have been carried on to a great extent.

The state of farm-buildings in point of accommodation and convenience cannot be surpassed. The Noble Duke and the other proprietors withhold nothing from their tenantry that can promote their comfort and happiness. The whole grain raised in the parish is consumed in the maintenance of the families of the growers.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

There is no market-town in this parish, and the nearest is Langholm, which is distant five miles. Langholm is also the post-town. There is no village.

*Means of Communication.*—The means of communication in all directions are good. The great road from Edinburgh by Hawick, Langholm, and Carlisle to London, runs along the banks of the Ewes, for the space of eight miles within the parish. The Carlisle mail, besides several other coaches to London, run on this road. This line of road was planned by Mr Pulteney of Westerhall, who obtained an act of Parliament for carrying it into execution in 1763. There are two other public roads, the one leading to the east, which affords a ready communication to Liddesdale, and the other to Dumfries and Moffat. Both of these roads were made, by an

act of Parliament laying an yearly assessment upon the lands of the different heritors according to their valued rent, and which the tenants pay in lieu of the ordinary statute labour.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—Before the Reformation, there were two churches and two chapels in this parish. The principal church of Ewesdale was dedicated to St Cuthbert, and stood on the west side of the Ewes, near a hamlet called Kirktown of Nether Ewes. Robert, the son of Radulph, the parson of St Cuthbert of Ewisdale, having sworn fealty to Edward I., obtained from him a precept to the sheriff of Dumfries for restoring him to his rights. The other church was situated at Ewesduris, in the upper part of the vale, where a pass leads into Teviotdale. From this pass the termination of the name was derived; *drws* in the British and *duras* in the Irish signifying a pass. One of these chapels in Ewisdale stood at Unthank, and the other at Moss Paul, on the south side of the valley where their ruins may still be seen.

The advowson of the Overkirk of Ewes belonged in the reign of James IV. to John Lindsay of Wauchope, who held the ten pound lands of old extent in Ewesdale. By his forfeiture in the year 1505, the lands and patronage fell to the Crown, and were granted to Alexander Lord Home; after whose forfeiture, in 1516, they were granted to Robert Lord Maxwell, in the same year and month.

The Overkirk of Ewes was deserted after the Reformation, and the kirk of Nether Ewes served the whole valley. The advowson of the parish of Nether Ewes, with the tithes and church lands, belonged to the Earls of Nithsdale, during the reigns of Charles II. and of William. The patronage afterwards passed to the family of Buccleuch, and the Duke is now patron. The church was repaired in 1831; it may contain 200 sitters, and is very central. The number of communicants is 87. The manse and office-houses were put into excellent order, the same year. The glebe contains 30 acres arable, and is well enclosed. The stipend is 15 chalders, half meal half barley, payable at the highest fair prices of the county, with L. 6, 8s. 8d. for communion elements. No Dissenting meeting-house is in this parish, and the number of Dissenters is only 14.

*Education.*—There is only one parochial school, and the teacher has the maximum salary with the legal accommodation. The branches of instruction taught are, English, writing, arithmetic, geography, Latin and Greek, French and mathematics. The

average number of scholars may be about 30. The school is central, and there is no need of an additional one. The amount of fees may average L. 11, exclusive of L. 3 given for collecting the poor's rates, and L. 2 for acting as precentor and session-clerk. There is not a single individual in this parish betwixt six and fifteen years of age who cannot read or write, nor is there one upwards of fifteen. Indeed there is not a single father of a family who is not alive to the benefits of education, or who would think that he had performed a father's duty, if he did not give his family, at least the common branches of education.

*Poor-houses.*—These houses were founded in 1761, by the Rev. Mr Malcolm, minister of the parish, and grandfather of the late Sir John Malcolm, for the support of four families supposed to be the most needful in the parish. The Duke of Buccleuch gives to each a quarter of an acre of ground for a garden. The minister and elders have the appointment.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—Poor-rates were instituted in this parish in 1773. The assessment for last year amounted to L. 41, 10s. upon the valued rental. The number on the poor's roll is only 6, but occasional relief is given to a few others, and to poor and distressed travellers. The weekly collections average 1s. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. or nearly L. 5 per annum. The poor receive quarterly L. 1, 10s., and their comforts are in every respect carefully looked after. No legacies or other funds have been left to the poor of this parish. There is no disposition among the poor to seek relief unless compelled by absolute necessity.

*Inns.*—One.

*Fuel.*—Peat is the principal fuel, which costs per cart load 2s. 6d. The nearest coal pits are at Canobie, where the cart load can be purchased for 2s. 6d. The distance is only eleven miles, and the road is good.

November 1835.

## PARISH OF MOUSWALD.

PRESBYTERY OF LOCHMABEN, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.

THE REV. ANDREW B. MURRAY, MINISTER.\*

---

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name, Boundaries, &c.*—THE name of this parish was formerly spelt Muswald and Mosswald, and is evidently derived from the Saxon word *walda* or *wealt*, which signifies the woody district, or forest near the moss; in former times, the whole of the lower grounds, not only of this parish, but of the extended range from Tinwald to the Solway Frith, were covered with wood. The parish is bounded on the west by Torthorwald; on the north by Lochmaben; on the east by Dalton; and on the south by Ruthwell. It extends from 4 to 5 miles in length, and in breadth from 2 to 3, and contains 4725 Scotch acres, or 8½ square miles. Including the part of Lochar Moss which lies in the parish, its figure may be said to resemble that of a heart, contracting on the north and south quarters as it falls to the moss, and still becoming narrower till it terminates on the river Lochar, which separates it from the parish of Caerlaverock.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The appearance of this parish is plain and level, with some rising grounds, which, however, have so gentle an acclivity that they are cultivated to the very summit. The elevation of the highest of these hills above the level of the sea may be computed at about 686 feet.

*Soil, &c.*—The soil is very diversified, from the extent of moss ground which is within its bounds. The farms which are contiguous to the moss have a considerable portion of pasture ground both wet and marshy; and a part of the arable ground is in the same state. Where the ground rises above the level of Lochar Moss, the soil is light and sandy. A considerable part of the parish adjoining to these farms, though rising considerably above them, and which is about one mile in breadth and nearly level, is also light and sandy, or a thin soil with a gravelly bottom interspersed with stones,

\* Drawn up by a Probationer of the Church of Scotland.

which runs into broom in the course of three or four years, even when laid down in good heart with grass seeds. Towards the eastern part of the parish, where the grounds rise considerably higher, the soil is tolerably deep and rich, and produces good crops of every description.

Within the bounds of this parish, there are 882 acres of moss. Nevertheless, the air is pure and healthy,—which is attributed to the vicinity of the sea, distant four miles from the centre of the parish. The medium temperature is about 46°; and the prevailing winds are from the south-west; and from the same quarter we have the heaviest falls of rain.

*Hydrography.*—The only river in the parish is the Lochar, which runs through it, for a very few yards. There are several rivulets that have their source in the higher grounds, and abundantly water the parish, falling into the Lochar. There is also a copious supply of spring wells. The well of St Peter's, which is nearly 100 yards west from the church, is one continued spring for 30 or 40 yards. This spring, even in the severest frosts, never freezes, nor does the rivulet into which it runs freeze for a considerable distance after their junction.

*Geology.*—The chief rocks in this parish are greywacke and greywacke slate. Indeed, the soil of the best land in the parish is formed from the decomposition of these rocks. On the farm of Bucklerhole a blue limestone rock is found, the same as that at Rookan, in the neighbouring parish of Torthorwald, which effervesces freely with acids. The substratum of Lochar Moss is chiefly fine white sand,—affording a strong and incontrovertible proof that at one time the tide must have overflowed the whole of this extensive moss.

*Zoology.*—All the common birds are found in great numbers in this parish. Among the more rare that are met with, we may mention, without observing any particular ornithological classification, the golden-crested wren (*Regulus cristatus*,) found in the woods of Rockhall, and the long-tailed titmouse (*Parus caudatus*,) found also in the same place. The woodlark (*Alauda arborea*,) the gray wagtail (*Motacilla boarula*,) the yellow wagtail (*M. flava*,) are also common. The moor buzzard (*Circus æruginosus*) is occasionally seen in the Lochar Moss. The bullfinch (*Loxia pyrrhula*,) the goldfinch (*Fringilla carduelis*,) the common linnet (*Linaria vulgaris*,) are abundant. The jay (*Corvus glandarius*,) the missel-thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*,) and the common

night-jar (*Caprimulgus Europæus*,) are seen in the woods of Rockhall. The black-cock (*Tetrao tetrix*,) and grouse (*Lagopus Scoticus*,) are frequently found in the moss.—*Water Birds*. The bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*,) the common curlew (*Numenius arquata*,) the lapwing (*Vanellus cristatus*,) the golden plover (*Charadrius pluvialis*,) and the snipe (*Scolopax gallinago*,) are abundant. The common wild duck (*Anas boschas*) hatches here in great numbers. The wild swan (*Cygnus ferus*,) and the wild goose (*Anser ferus*,) are frequently shot in the Lochar Moss. The woodcock, the cuckoo, the fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*,) and the swallow are found in their season.

*Botany*.—Among the rare plants met with in this parish we may notice the following, viz. the common mare's tail (*Hippuris vulgaris*,) the water speedwell (*Veronica anagallis*,) and the greater bladder-wort (*Utricularia vulgaris*,) which are found in the ditches and stagnant waters in the Lochar Moss. In the meadows we find also the small marsh valerian (*Valeriana dioica*,) and the yellow goat's-beard (*Tragopogon pratensis*,) In the peat bogs, the cranberry (*Vaccinium oxycoccus*) is gathered in large quantities, and sold in the Dumfries market. All kinds of forest trees grow to a large size, but particularly oak and ash,—beautiful specimens of which are seen around the mansion-house of Rockhall.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Land-owners*.—The chief land-owners, with their valuations in merks Scots, are as follows: Sir Robert Grierson, Bart. 1200; Earl of Mansfield, 125; Robert Paterson, Esq. 413, 1s. 8d.; Colonel Harvey of Castlesemple, 389; Robert Threshie, Esq. 298, 6s. 8d.; John Morison, Esq. 188, besides his farm of Langdykes, the valued rent of which is included in the valued rent of Robiewhat and Raffles; George Cruickshanks, Esq. of Robiewhat, 100; Philip Forsyth, Esq. of Raffles, 75.

*Parochial Registers*.—The register of births has been regularly kept since about 1771; but that of marriages and deaths cannot be depended upon till of late years. Yearly average of births, 22; of marriages, 6; and of deaths, 16.

*Antiquities*.—The vestiges of five old square buildings are still visible, which, in former times, were places both of residence and defence against the depredations of the borderers. One of these towers, situated at a place called Bucklerhole, or Bucklerhold, had, till very lately, two stories, and what was called a watchhouse, remaining; but the walls are now little more than traceable. The



one at Raffles is the most entire. The largest and strongest built of these remains of ancient times is that at Mouswald Mains, or, as it is there generally called, *Place*. This stronghold was the mansion of Sir Simon Carruthers, the laird of Mouswald. His only daughter was married to one of the Queensberry family, by which connection they came into the possession of the estate. In the aisle of the old church, there were formerly two statues as large as life; the one a representation of Sir Simon, and the other of his lady. That of the lady was cut out of beautiful white freestone, which has now been completely carried away piece-meal. The one of Sir Simon, which is still preserved, represents him with his head lying on a pillow, his feet on a lion, and his hands raised in a praying posture. Unfortunately there is neither date nor inscription.—There are also several camps in the parish, in all probability British. The one at Burronhill has a strong double fosse or ditch. In digging the foundation for a new school-house some time ago near to this place, a considerable quantity of human bones were found. There is another near the summit of a small hill called Panteth hill, which, from its extensive and commanding view, must evidently have been a watch tower.

There are also several burrows or cairns, in which human bones have been found, and urns containing small pieces of bones. One of these cairns, distant about a mile and a quarter, in an eastern direction, from the church, is called *Stryal*, or as some say, the *Tryal*-cairn. Its circumference is 288 feet; and it is very near to another cairn which still retains the name of *Deadmangill*. Tradition has handed down, that at the one place malefactors were tried, and of course executed at the other. Urns have been found in different parts of the parish, where there were no visible remains of tumuli.

*Resident Heritor*.—The only resident heritor is Sir Robert Grierson of Lag, Bart.

*Modern Buildings*.—The only mansion-house in the parish is Rockhall, the seat of Sir Robert Grierson.

### III.—POPULATION.

The population of this parish in 1755 amounted to 553

1791	-	628	
1801	-	705	
1811	-	769	
1821	-	795	
1831	-	786; 372 are males, 414 females.	
Number of families,	-	-	153
inhabited houses,	-	-	152
uninhabited,	-	-	5

Number of families employed in agriculture,	-	65
trade and manufactures,	26	
all other families,	-	62

*Character of the People.*—The people in this parish are, almost without exception, sober, cleanly, and industrious; and appear in every respect contented with their condition, and the circumstances in which Divine Providence has been pleased to place them. They are regular in their attendance at church, and in partaking of the holy ordinances of our religion.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

##### *Agriculture and Rural Economy.*—

The number of Scots acres in this parish is	-	4725
cultivated or occasionally in tillage,	-	3317
never cultivated, and affording indifferent pasture, including the part of Lochar Moss in the parish,	1008	
that might be improved with advantage,	-	250
under wood, both natural and planted,	-	150

*Produce.*—The average amount of raw produce, as nearly as can be ascertained, may be computed as under :

From grain of all kinds,	- - - - -	L. 4845	0	0
potatoes and turnips,	- - - - -	1250	0	0
hay, both meadow and cultivated,	- - - - -	1000	0	0
flax grown for family use,	- - - - -	25	0	0
pasture, rating at L. 2, 10s. per cow or full-grown ox,	- - - - -	500	0	0

Thus making the total annual value of raw produce, - L. 7620 0 0

*Rent of Land.*—The rent of arable land in this parish varies, according to soil and situation, from L. 2 to 6s. per acre.

*Breeds of Live-Stock.*—The common breed of cattle kept by the farmers in general is the Galloway; to the improvement of which great attention has been paid by selecting stock and bulls of the purest kind. In this district, farmers find it their advantage to be careful in rearing good stock, as their profits depend more upon a good sale of their black-cattle, than on their grain produce. Besides, no breed of cattle is more sought after or so readily bought up by the English dealers. Cows of the pure Galloway breed bring from L. 8 to L. 10; two year old stots of the same kind, from L. 5 to L. 7, 10s. Farmers in general sell their young stock at this age.

Farm horses able for their work, of which a considerable number is reared in the parish, bring from L. 20 to L. 30; and some of great power and fine symmetry, L. 45. Great numbers of pigs are both reared and fed in this parish. Farmers now think it more profitable to consume their oats and potato crop in feeding swine than by carting them to the Dumfries market, particularly as a ready market is found for the pork to be carried into England.

*Husbandry.*—All the modern improvements in agriculture have been successfully introduced into this parish, such as the use of bone manure for raising turnips, and eating them off the ground with sheep, which has been found to improve the soil very much. Draining, where it can be effected, is carefully attended to; and very considerable portions of the moss ground, particularly of late years, have been redeemed from a state of waste, and converted into good arable ground. The general duration of leases is nineteen years, which, according to the mode of cropping adopted in this quarter, has been found to be the most favourable for both parties. The state of farm-buildings would admit of great improvement; but the subdividing and enclosing with proper fences the different arable fields, has been by no means neglected.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Town, &c.*—Dumfries, distant six miles from the centre of the parish, is the post town, and the nearest place where regular weekly markets are held. There are four small villages, viz. Mouswald, which may consist of about thirty inhabited houses, with a population of 125; Woodside, 70; Cleughbrae and Banks, 74.

*Means of Communication.*—The means of communication, in every direction, enjoyed by this parish, are excellent. The turnpike and parish roads are kept in the very best state of repair. The great post-road from Carlisle to Dumfries and Portpatrick, which was finished in 1776, runs through the parish from south-east to north-west, by the church and manse. Another road runs almost in the same direction, and nearly parallel along the rising ground of the eastern division of the parish. Between these two roads, there is also another parish road, which runs from the church to Torthorwald, and gives easy access to the markets held at Lochmaben and Lockerbie. This road leads also to the lime-works at Kelhead, to Annan, and to Ruthwell. It was made by the road-money, which is paid instead of the statute labour. Sufficient bridges, wherever they were required, are thrown over all these roads. The Carlisle and Portpatrick mail-coach, besides several heavy coaches to different parts of England, travel on the principal turnpike road, affording an easy and ready communication to all parts of the world.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church of Mouswald was dedicated to St Peter; and there is near it, as we have mentioned, the remarkable spring consecrated to the same saint. At what time, the old church was built, which was taken down a few years ago, is not known.

In the reign of James VI., the lands of Mouswald, with the advowson of the church, belonged to Sir James Douglas of Drumlanrig, who conferred them upon his second son, James Douglas of Mouswald, whose descendants enjoyed them in the reign of Charles II. They were held of the chiefs of the Douglas family when they returned to the Duke of Queensberry's property. On the death of Duke William, in 1810, the property of Mouswald, with the patronage of the church, fell to Sir Charles Douglas of Kelhead, Bart. who, at the same time, succeeded to the title of Marquis of Queensberry.

The present church is a very handsome modern building, erected within these few years. It is very central, and stands on a fine eminence, and is visible from every farm in the parish except three. It may contain about 386 sitters. The manse and office-houses are also newly built. They are finished in a substantial manner, affording every comfort and convenience. The glebe contains 16 acres, 11 of which are arable, 3 of bog hay, and 2 of woodland and pasture.

The stipend is 15 chalders, half meal, half barley, payable according to the highest fiars of the county, with L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements. The last augmentation was granted upon the 4th December 1822. The stipend, converted into money, may average, for the last five years, L. 213; glebe, manse, garden, &c. L. 45; total, L. 258. The number of families which attend the Established Church is 140; of those attending chapels of Dissenters in Dumfries, 10. There are no Episcopalians in the parish. Roman Catholics, 3. The average number of communicants is about 170. The only fixed yearly collection for charitable objects is for the Dumfries and Galloway Infirmary.

*Education.*—There are two schools in the parish, and one for young girls. The parish schoolmaster's salary is L. 25, 13s. 5d., with the legal accommodation. The branches of instruction taught are, English reading, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, geography, Latin, and Greek. Emoluments arising from school fees, L. 10. The other school has a small endowment of L. 2 per annum, left by a late schoolmaster, a native of the parish. From its situation it is tolerably well attended. The fees are the same as in the parish school, but none of the higher branches of education are taught.

There is not a single native of this parish betwixt six and fifteen years of age who cannot read and write a little. The people in general are alive to the benefits of education, and there is a

marked change in their conduct and morals since the facilities of education were increased. There is no part of the parish so distant from some one of the schools as to prevent attendance; on that account, no additional school is required.

*Savings Banks, &c.*—There is no circulating library, nor friendly society, nor savings bank, in this parish. The nearest savings banks are at Dumfries and the neighbouring parish of Ruthwell. The one at Dumfries was established in 1815, and the other in 1810. Several individuals of this parish have deposited small sums in the Ruthwell bank,—the first of the kind, which was instituted by the clergyman of that parish, Dr H. Duncan.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The number of poor at present upon the roll is 16; besides that occasional relief is given to a few others. There are no funds for the poor in this parish, except what arise from the weekly collections, fines, &c. and the sum of L. 5, which was left in the year 1791 by a man who died in Dumfries, whose forefathers had been natives of Mouswald. The heritors generally assess themselves to raise any additional sum that may be required. Last year the assessment was L. 35; church collections, &c. L. 13; making the sum of L. 48, which was distributed. At an average, the poor receive 12s. 6d. per quarter. There is neither a blind nor a fatuous person in the parish.

There is no manifest disposition, but rather an aversion at first, on the part of the poor, to seek parochial relief; but it has been remarked, and we believe with much truth, that, as soon as they do get upon the roll, this feeling immediately dies away, and they look upon what the session gives them as their right, which the one is as much bound to bestow as the other is entitled to receive. At the same time, we are quite aware, that there are others in the parish, objects of charity, who would accept of private relief, but in no other way.

*Inns.*—The parish contains two good inns, which, from the great intercourse betwixt England, the south of Scotland, and Ireland, may be considered necessary. The landlords of both are respectable men, and keep their houses in an orderly manner.

*Fuel.*—The common fuel used is peat, procured in great abundance within the parish. A cart load costs, within the parish, from 1s. to 1s. 6d; and if carted to any great distance, 2s. From the time that is spent in cutting, drying, and carting the peats home, farmers, of late, have begun to use more coal than former-

ly,—an abundant supply of which is brought by sea from the English coast to Dumfries, and sold about 8s. the cart load, or from 13s. to 14s. per ton.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Great changes in dress, mode of living, comfort in dwelling-houses, and improvements in farming have taken place in this parish within these last forty years. In 1791, the real rent of the parish was L. 1500; now it is L. 3690.

The greatest improvement wanted in this and in some of the neighbouring parishes, is the draining of Lochar Moss.

It is little more than eight years since the cultivation of turnips was general in this parish. We may notice, that the higher grounds in this parish afford the most extensive prospect in the south of Scotland. From one point you have a full view of the Solway Frith, several ports both on the English and Scotch sides, the Isle of Man, and many of the neighbouring counties; the greatest part of Dumfries-shire, Galloway, part of Lanarkshire, Peebles-shire; Northumberland, and Cumberland, in England. At the western extremity of the parish, a person standing on one particular spot, can throw a stone into each of the four neighbouring parishes, Torthorwald, Dumfries, Caerlaverock, and Ruthwell, all terminating on the side of the river Lochar, near to this point.

*January 1836.*

# PARISH OF DRYFESDALE.

PRESBYTERY OF LOCHMABEN, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES AND  
GALLOWAY.

THE REV. DAVID B. DOUIE, MINISTER.\*

---

## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name, Boundaries, &c.*—It is obvious that this parish derives its name from Dryfe, a small rivulet that runs through the north-west side of it; Drysdale being a contraction or abbreviation of Dryfesdale. It lies in the middle of that beautiful and extensive valley commonly called the How of Annandale, and is in  $55^{\circ} 08'$  north latitude, and  $3^{\circ}$  west longitude. It is 7 miles in length, north to south; at the southern extremity only about a mile broad, but at the centre  $5\frac{1}{2}$ , at the north end 3 miles; and contains in whole upwards of 11,000 acres. It is bounded on the south and west, which is flat and well cultivated for the space of  $6\frac{1}{2}$  miles, by the river Annan, which divides it from the parish of Lochmaben; on the north-west by that of Applegarth; on the north by that of Hutton; on the east and south by the parishes of Tundergarth, and St Mungo.

*Topographical Appearances.*—No mountains, but some of the most beautiful hills add much to the beauty and diversity of the scenery, of the parish. The highest and most beautiful is White Woollen or Quhyte Woollen, but generally named White Wynd. The pasturage upon it being at one time very good, it used to be covered with very white sheep; from which it is supposed to have taken its name. But the lapse of a few years has created a wonderful revolution on its appearance. Instead of the once beautiful and white fleeces, we have to admire the rich luxuriance of the waving corn,—it being now almost all cultivated to the very summit. It is of considerable steepness and height, being about 1500 feet above the level of the sea. On its summit is a small verdant plain of about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  acres, of a circular form. It has now no traces of antiquity; but beacons are supposed to have been lighted on it, to warn the more northerly inhabitants of the country of the approach of the English borderers.

\* Drawn up by the late incumbent, the Rev. John Henderson.

On a clear day we have one of the most enchanting and extensive views of the whole of the surrounding countries of Annandale, Eskdale, the English border, Solway Frith, part of the Irish sea, even of the Isle of Man, and part of Nithsdale and Galloway. On the north and south sides of this hill, is a range of lesser ones; these have an imposing and beautiful appearance, being now almost all cultivated. They divide the east or high part of the parish from the south or low part. At the southern extremity of this range is a rising eminence called Mount Holly. Upon the banks of the Corrie, is a small but beautiful hill named Corrie Law, commanding a pleasing and deep prospect beneath. These hills, though some of them very steep, are mostly all cultivated and covered with grain, potatoes, &c.

*Hydrography.*—On the west side of the parish there are two spring wells,—one called the chapel well, from its vicinity to the old chapel of Beckton: its spring is of great size, being at the greatest nearly 15 inches in circumference. The water is found to be very light and uncommonly wholesome; it is supposed to be useful in stomach complaints. The other, about three quarters of a mile farther to the south-west, near the lake called the Old Cauldron from its depth, is called the Woodkin well. It was formerly esteemed very powerful in curing and preventing the effects of witchcraft.

The only stream in the parish is the Dryfe, though the Annan, Corrie, and Milk, all touch it on their passage to the Solway Frith. The Dryfe rises in the north end of the parish of Hutton, through part of which it runs; and enters Dryfesdale, after passing a part of Applegarth. It runs a course from north to south for about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles, emptying itself into the Annan, in a direct line between the market-town of Lockerbie and the royal burgh of Lochmaben. It is a small rivulet, and in moderate weather its water is pure and clear. The bed is of a deep gravel, and therefore in dry seasons it disappears at some parts for about a mile. But, in rainy weather, it comes down in sudden and rapid swells, breaking down and overflowing all its banks, so that nothing in the way can resist the impetuosity of the torrent. Sheep, pigs, even cattle, and trees torn from their roots, have been seen floating on its surface.

The Annan washes the parish on the west and south for the length of  $6\frac{1}{2}$  miles. It formerly afforded a plentiful supply of salmon, herlings, and sea trout; but these are now very scarce, owing to causes at present unknown. It abounds much in other small fish.



The Milk and Corrie diversify and enrich the east and south-east, sides. They have nothing peculiar, but like other streams contain plenty of small fish.

*Geology.*—No minerals or ores of any kind are found here. There are some beds of a very soft kind of freestone found at Oldwells, but not wrought. At the old cauldron near Dryfesdale gate, there is some good shell marl, which is now only wrought by the tenants on whose grounds it is found. There is also at Quaas, a quarter of a mile west of Lockerbie, at the southern end of the parish, a rock of very dark-coloured limestone, not made use of. The very great quantities of rag and whinstone supply the deficiency of sandstone. These make good, durable, and at the same time beautiful walls, when skilfully wrought.

There is little peat-moss in the parish, except some small spots on the west side.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Antiquities.*—On the holm of Dryfe, as stated in the former Account, about half a mile below the old church-yard, are two very aged thorn trees, with a tumulus at their base, called Maxwell's Thorns, because they point out the place of the remarkable fight on Dryfesands, between the Maxwells of Nithsdale, and the Johnstons of Annandale. There are vestiges of strong towers at Old Walls, Kirk-town-mains, Nether-place, Myrehead, and Daltonhook. There are evident remains of eight camps or forts, some square or Roman, others circular or British, and mostly built on eminences, because about 2000 years since (their age) the sides of the eminences or hills had been covered with growing wood, and the present flat or low lying and holm lands in Annandale had partly been a morass, or under water; hence we find, that the Roman roads were generally made on rising ground, when it could be got. The most remarkable are two, the one British, and the other Roman, facing each other, and separated by a narrow morass. They are built on two hills east of the village Bengall, the name alluding to the forts on the hills, signifying the hill of the Gauls. Old pieces of armour and warlike weapons have frequently been found in them, and the skeleton of a man was found in a cairn on the intervening morass, thought to have lain there for some ages; and some fragments of his dress or accoutrements were carried off as a curiosity, particularly the sandals, curiously wrought and bound around the mouths with leathern thongs, which were conveyed into England, for the Oxford Museum. There is also a Roman fort, beautifully situated upon

a large eminence, in the centre of the united and extensive holm of Dryfe and Annan, called the Gallaberry, or the burgh and station of the Gauls, for the term *Berry* is of Saxon origin, signifying "burgh, mansion, or strength." The most entire is a British one at Dryfesdale gate, occupying about two acres of ground, and commanding a most extensive prospect. Its counterpart is a large Roman one about half a mile due east, interrupted by a moor, standing on the place celebrated for the bloody battle between the army of Julius Agricola and the forces of Corbredus Galdus, the twenty-first King of the Scots, about the end of the first century. There are plain traces of the great Roman road from the borders of England, up to the vast encampments on the neighbouring hill of Burnswark, and thence crossing the parish at Lockerbie to Dryfesdale gate, and up to the Gallaberry above-mentioned, where it divided, one branch leading up through Annandale, by Moffat to Tweeddale and Clydesdale; the other branch crossing the Annan, touched an entire and beautiful double fort, on the northern margin of one of the Lochmaben lakes, called the Woody Castle, and thence passed up the west side of the water of *Æ*, through Nithsdale to the west country.

### III.—POPULATION.

Amount of population in 1801,	-	1607	
1811,	-	1898	
1821,	-	2251	
1831,	-	2283	
Number of families,	-	-	478
chiefly employed in agriculture,	-	-	179
in trade, manufactures, and handicraft,	-	-	145

### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—Of the 11000 acres of land in this parish, about 600 are not in cultivation, and seem never to have been cultivated, consisting chiefly of moss, wood, and moor. It is supposed that 240 acres might yet be cultivated; and that about 250 are at present under wood.

*Rent of Land.*—The average rent of land, taking one acre with another, in the parish is about L. 1; of good arable land, L. 2. The average rent of grazing is per cow or ox, L. 1, 10s. 6d.; but sometimes L. 3, 10s. is paid on some pastures; and for a ewe or full-grown sheep, about 7s. per annum.

*Produce.*—The average gross amount and value of raw produce yearly raised in the parish may be as follows:—

Grain of all kinds,	-	-	L. 7500
Potatoes and turnips,	-	-	3700
Hay,	-	-	1900

Flax,	-	-	-	-	50
Land in pasture,	-	-	-	-	3900
Gardens and orchards,	-	-	-	-	200
Thinnings of woods,	-	-	-	-	100
Other produce,	-	-	-	-	200
					L. 17,550

## V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Lockerbie.*—The market-town of Lockerbie, the only one in the parish, merits a particular description. Lockerbie is supposed to have derived its name from *Lock*, and *bie*, the Celtic name for a station or place of strength. Accordingly, there is an old square tower still standing called the Mains, which was the mansion place of the ancient family of the Johnstones of Lockerbie, a branch of the old family of Johnstone of Lochwood, the ancestor of the late Marquis of Annandale, and of the present Marquis of Queensberry, and Mr Douglas of Lockerbie. This tower had been placed on a ridge, between and almost surrounded by two large lochs or lakes,—one on the east and the other on the west, which are now drained, and are all either cultivated or in rich meadow; and it may be worthy of notice, that the great Roman road already described passed through one of these lochs, about half a mile below the tower, at a place called Blackford. From this mansion and its dependencies, it gradually increased to the size of a village; and from that, by the liberality of some of the lairds of Lockerbie in granting feus and long tacks, it has yearly increased to its present dimensions. It is now a neat cleanly town, situated in a fertile and inviting part of the country, midway between the rivers Annan and Milk: it lies 12 miles east from Dumfries, and 4 from Lochmaben, 16 south from Moffat,  $17\frac{1}{2}$  west of Langholm, 10 north of Annan, and 6 from Ecclefechan. The number of inhabitants is of males, 646; of females, 768; total, 1414. There are as yet no public manufactures established in the town. Many of the common people here and in the country are very expert in making many parts of their own wearing apparel.

*Means of Communication.*—The town and parish in general enjoy excellent communication,—the great post and turnpike road from London to Edinburgh and Glasgow, running through the town of Lockerbie and parish, for the length of three miles. On the London road, at the north-west side of the parish, is an old but strong, firm, and well built bridge, over the Dryfe; another at Scroggs, on a parish road, and over the Milk. But the one most worthy of notice is at Stullahill, on the new road from Dum-

fries by Lockerbie to Langholm, built in 1830 by the county road proprietors, at a great expense. It is indeed a great ornament to this part of the country. It is built all of good Memel timber, and consists of seven large arches, supported each by four very large perpendicular logs of wood forced into the earth, with strong beams, extending from one to another of these, with appropriate oblique supports; the whole strongly jointed together with strong cast metal, covered above with a double flooring of thick strong planks ledged with a beautiful wooden palisade, covered with a coat of white oil paint. The whole is a strong, substantial, and at the same time elegant piece of workmanship, and does great credit to the undertaker, Mr John Park of Ecclefechan.

*Ecclesiastical State.\**—The parish church is a neat building, situated on a small eminence on the west side of the main street of Lockerbie, a little north from the centre of the town. It is well fitted up in the inside, and handsomely painted. Its situation being near the centre of the parish and in the town of Lockerbie, it is very conveniently placed for almost all the population. Its distance from the farthest extremity of the parish is only about three miles and a-half. It was put into good repair in the year 1751, and has since been kept so. It may contain about 750 people.

There are two important benefactions on record,—the first of L. 80, given about the year 1751 by the father of the late Earl of Hopetoun, the interest of which was to be annually paid to the parochial schoolmaster; the other a legacy of L. 65, left by John Aitchison, Esq. of Oulney, with a gift of two massive silver communion-cups, in 1761.

On the summit of the old Kirkhill, contiguous to the former churchyard, stands the present manse, a neat building; its situation is one of the most beautiful in the whole of Annandale. It was built in the year 1782, and is kept in yearly repair by the heritors. It is surrounded by a glebe of 24 acres standard measure, at present

\* Previous to the year 1757, the church stood on the middle of the holm of Dryfe, now called Sandbed, one mile and a-half north of Lockerbie. Tradition says, that in the year 1670, from its closeness to that stream, it was gradually undermined and carried away by it, and that after this the church and burial-ground was rebuilt at a small distance to the south-east in 1761, on a height upon the skirts of the present glebe, or as it was then called Kirkhill, and thought to be perfectly secure from the swells of the rivulet; but in the course of time it changed its course, and ran along the foot of a scar, above which the church and burial ground stood, parts of which gradually fell into the water, in spite both of "spades and shovels," and would soon have been carried off. In 1757, it was removed to the town of Lockerbie, both as an ornament to, and for the convenience of, the town and parish.

let for L. 24 per annum. The amount of stipend, not including the glebe, is just L. 198, 18s. 6d.

There is an Antiburgher meeting-house at the south end of Lockerbie, established about ninety years ago. The minister is paid by the congregation, in general from the surrounding parishes. The stipend is about L. 95 per annum. There are two Sabbath school institutions in winter; the number of children attending that connected with the Established Church is about 120, in summer about 70. The Established Church is very well attended; the average number of communicants is 600.

*Education.*—There is one parochial school in this parish, besides six private unendowed ones,—three of which are taught by females. The branches of education commonly taught in the parochial schools are, Greek, Latin, French, with English, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, and practical geometry, &c. &c. In one of the unendowed schools, these are also generally taught. The salary of the parish schoolmaster is L. 34, 4s. 4d. He has every legal accommodation. Every person in the parish above fifteen years of age can both read and write. About eight young men go annually to attend the different classes at the University of Glasgow and Edinburgh.

*Libraries.*—There are two libraries,—one a parochial subscription, and the other a circulating one, in Lockerbie; besides a public reading-room, having many of the Scotch and English newspapers of the day.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The average number of poor persons receiving parochial relief is 18,—each receiving about the average sum of from 1s. to 1s. 6d. per week. The average amount of contributions and free donations to assist the poor is about L. 25 per annum,—which, with church collections, may amount to the sum of L. 65, with the interest of L. 100\*,—which is, each winter, expended by the kirk-session for coals to the poor. These are barely sufficient to supply the necessitous poor. The people are very liberal and benevolent to their own poor, but they are continually annoyed by an immense influx of vagrants and beggars from distant places. There is still a great desire on the part of some more of the poor to get their names enrolled with those that are already receiving weekly relief; and therefore they do not consider it degrading.

*Jail.*—There are no jails nearer than those of Lochmaben and

\* This L. 100 was the legacy of Mr Aitchison of Oulney, formerly mentioned. The original sum was L. 65, which was gradually increased to its present amount.

Dumfries. The old tower at Lockerbie was last year converted into a kind of temporary lock-up house; but such is the peaceable disposition of the people of this part of the country, that not one single person has yet been lodged in it.

*Fairs.*—In Lockerbie, there are two fairs and ten markets.\* The two fairs are, the one at Lammas, and the other at Michaelmas, when moderate tolls are levied by the proprietor. At the two markets, all are free; but besides these, there are in winter weekly markets, principally for pork, which is brought from all quarters of the surrounding country to be disposed of here. I have known the sum of L. 1000 and upwards expended by bacon-curers in one day,—which they buy in at the average price of 5s. per stone, which, when cured and dried, are sold at 6d. or 7d. per lb.

Such is the importance of the Lammas fair, that I consider a short history of it here will not be unsuitable: Lockerbie has been celebrated for its lamb and wool market for several centuries back. When the border raids had so far ceased as to allow a slight intercourse between the Scot and the southern, our sheep farmers assembled here every year, to meet with English dealers. This they called a tryst; but, as Lockerbie increased in population, and the friendly intercourse between Scotland and England extended itself, the fair became a greater object of importance, and was held on the top of that range of hills south of Quhytewoolen, and north-east of Lockerbie, which was granted in perpetuity as a kind of “common” to that town,—but at what time or by whom I have never met with a person who was yet able to inform me. It is a curious fact, however, that the common was once dependent on the city of Glasgow, until Lady Douglas of Lockerbie House bought the right of superiority, who charges so much per head upon all the lambs that are shewn on it; and as the charges amount in the aggregate to a considerable sum, it is let out by roup to the highest bidder a day or two before the custom is collected, and he depends for remuneration on the number of lambs

\* The Lammas fair is on 2d August, old style, excepting Saturday, Sunday, or Monday, and in that case on the Tuesday following. The Michaelmas fair is on the 2d of October, old style, excepting Saturday, Sunday, or Monday, and in that case on the Tuesday following. The two markets are on the second Thursday, old style, in January, February, March, April, May. The third Thursday in June is called the Midsummer market. The next is fourteen days after the Michaelmas fair, if on Thursday, if not, on the Thursday thereafter. The next is three weeks after the last, called the Martinmas one. The other is fourteen days after that, and the last on the Thursday before Yule or Christmas, old style. The hiring market for servants for the summer half-year is in April. For the winter half-year, the one fourteen days after Michaelmas. To these two markets an immense concourse of people assemble from all parts of Annandale.

exposed. In some good years, he pays L. 30 to the proprietor for one day's collection. The person that takes it was never known to be a loser by it. The common is a round hill of about 100 acres in extent. The soil is barren; in some places overgrown with whins; a large portion of it is of a spongy nature, but from its altitude it presents on the fair day a very imposing spectacle. Besides the lamb-market on the hill, there is an annual fair in the town, at which the whole county for twelve miles round is generally assembled.

*Inns.*—In Lockerbie there are two inns; at one of which, chaises and horses are to be hired; besides some small ale-houses. These houses are, on public occasions, frequented by many for the transaction of business, for receiving payments, &c. and on any of these days the people seem to be more regular and sober.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The appearance of the people, as respects their manners, dress, inclination to be employed, and aversion to idleness,—shews at once that, since the time of the former Statistical Account, there has been a progressive advance in these particulars. The improvement in agriculture is also proved satisfactorily by the great advancement in the rent of land since that time, viz. from 13s. 4d. the acre per annum to L. 2. The enclosed parks about Lockerbie, then set at 17s 6d., are now let at L. 3, 10s. 6d. It may also be observed, that at that time there were sixty farms in the parish let at from L. 25 to L. 100 yearly rent; there are now only about fifty, each let at from L. 60 to L. 500. The population in the town of Lockerbie has increased 714; but in the country part of the parish there has been a decrease of 31,—which decrease may be owing, perhaps, to many of the small farms having been joined into one, and to the dilapidation of many cot houses and villages already mentioned. There is one great obstruction to every kind of trade in this part of the country,—the great scarcity of fuel. This is occasioned by a want of proper internal communication.

There are in Lockerbie—20 grocers, 1 hardware, and 4 cloth-shops, 5 surgeons with 2 apothecaries shops, 2 midwives, 5 writers, 4 messengers, 8 weavers, 13 tailors, 7 joiners, 2 wheel-wrights, 9 blacksmiths, 4 nailers, 3 watchmakers, 4 bakers, 3 fleshers, 1 barber, 3 cloggers, 2 saddlers, 2 tanners, 4 stocking-framers, 1 cabinet-maker, 8 shoemakers, 12 stone-masons; in the country part there are, 4 millers, about 100 ploughs, 400 horses, and 50 farmers.

*January 1836.*

## PARISH OF KEIR.

PRESBYTERY OF PENPONT, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY.

THE REV. WILLIAM MENZIES, MINISTER.

---

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name, Boundaries, &c.*—THIS parish forms the south-west side of the central basin of the Nith, which comprehends great part of the parishes of Closeburn, Morton, Durisdeer, Penpont, and Tynron. It derives its name either from some fortress, of the existence and history of which all traces have now disappeared, *Caer*, an old British word, signifying a fort;\* or, according to the somewhat fanciful conjecture of Mr Rae in his History of the parish, from the colour of its grounds,—the word Keir signifying black or brown. This colour, however, which seems formerly to have been in a certain degree distinctive of the parish, is gradually yielding to plantation and extended culture. The extreme length of the parish, from north-west to south-east, is about  $7\frac{1}{2}$  miles, and its extreme breadth  $2\frac{1}{2}$ ; but in much of its length it is so narrow that the surface does not exceed 11 square miles.

The ridge of Keir hill separates the parish from Glencairn on the south-west; and everywhere else streams form its boundaries. Indeed, it may be said to consist of the slopes from that hill down to some stream. From Tynron, on the west, it is separated by the waters of a small burn and the Shinnel; from Penpont on the north, by the Scar after its junction with the Shinnel; from Closeburn on the north-east by the Scar and Nith; and from Dunscore on the south by the Allanton burn.

The high land of the parish consists of the long ridge called the Keir hill, and some small branches at both ends of it. This ridge is about four miles long. Its highest point bears the name of the Waugh hill. Connected with it at its northern extremity is Capenoch hill; and to the east of its southern extremity lie the short parallel ridges of Kilbride and Blackwood. From all these heights there are most beautiful and extensive views,—so many as

\* Close by a farm house, now called Nether Keir, a tower once stood.



eight or ten parish churches being seen from some points. Blackwood hill, in particular, is noted for commanding all the windings of the Nith, through the rich holms of its central and lower basins, from Drumlanrig to the Solway, the view being terminated to the north by the central chain of the lowlands, and to the south by the mountains of Cumberland.

Adjacent to the Shinnel, Scar, and Nith, are about 300 acres of rich holm land. This is separated by a steep wooded bank from the table-land of the parish, which stretches to the foot of the hills, and becomes gradually narrower and more elevated towards the south-east, till it merges into the slope of the hill of Kilbride. Blackwood hill dips at once into the Nith. The height of the hills has not been ascertained by actual measurement. Aldgirth Bridge is about 50 feet above the level of high water at Dumfries; and the table-land may be from 100 to 150 more.

*Prognostics of Weather, &c.*—Springs are observed after long-continued drought to rise before rains. Sea gulls appear in unusual numbers before a storm. In clear weather, when the Lowthers to the north, and Queensberry to the north-east, assume a very indistinct outline, resembling a piece of printing on which the types have been shifted, rain may be expected, and in frost thaw. In cloudy weather, a reddish or brassy glare in the morning in that part of the horizon which appears in the south-east, between Blackwood and the heights of Closeburn, when it decreases, portends rain; when it increases, fair weather.

The temperature of the atmosphere is extremely mild. But the air is generally loaded with moisture, as is proved by the rapidity with which the surface of the earth, or fine gravel, becomes covered over with mosses. The noxious effects of this dampness are in a considerable degree counteracted by the porousness of the soil, and by very extensive draining for the improvement of the numerous bogs or small patches of meadow land, with which the whole surface of the parish is studded. It is probably owing to the latter circumstance that the slow nervous fevers, rheumatisms, and asthmatic disorders, which are stated by Mr Wallace in the former Statistical Account to have been very prevalent, are by no means so at present. Consumption is the most frequent and deadly disease; and stomach complaints, originating in poor diet, are common.

*Hydrography.*—The whole parish abounds in springs: but none of them are known to possess any remarkable property, though in some the presence of mineral substances is indicated both by taste

and smell. The only loch of any consequence lies on the border of the parish, between Blackwood and Halliday hills. It is fast filling up. A part of it now yields an abundant crop of meadow hay, and it might all be drained, and the land highly improved, were it not for a servitude held over it by Allanton mill for supplying it with water: the burn which drives the mill flowing through it. Another to the north-west, now nearly filled up, seems to be the loch alluded to in the Macfarlane MSS. "Here is a deep loch, called the Loch of Kilbread, in a place pertaining to the Laird of Lag, but the water is not reputed medicinal." Keir hill gives birth to a great number of burns which intersect the table land of the parish. None of them have formed any deep ravine, except the Bardennoch burn below Barjarg. This ravine is covered with fine trees: pleasure walks have been cut through it; and it possesses a great attraction in a singularly beautiful waterfall. The hill of Blackwood is the great barrier which seems at some remote period to have pent up the waters of the Nith, so as to form a lake of great dimensions in the basin above. A considerable extent of alluvial land, nearly at the same level, about thirty feet above the present holms in the parishes of Keir, Penpont, and Closeburn, bear testimony to its existence.

*Geology, &c.*—The parish of Keir, as is the case with most of the upper part of Dumfries-shire, is chiefly composed of greywacke, which exhibits considerable variety in its characters, the component parts being in many cases very large, while in others they are so minute that the mass has a very homogeneous aspect, and bears a considerable resemblance to a trap rock.

In some parts, however, newer rocks occur, and those are principally limestone and sandstone.

The limestone is generally of a reddish colour, owing to a considerable admixture of iron, and contains numerous small cavities filled with crystals of calcareous spar. A few petrifications are occasionally met with.

The principal localities of the limestone are at Barjarg and Porterstown, and in both of these places it is regularly quarried. The Barjarg limestone has been found by analysis to contain about fifty-four per cent. of carbonate of lime, and thirty-six per cent. of carbonate of magnesia. The limestone of Porterstown has not as yet been regularly analyzed, but appears to be much the same as the other, though it probably contains a larger portion of foreign matters.

According to Mr Menteth (Edin. New Phil. Journal, Vol. v. p. 45,) the Barjarg limestone appears to be a continuation of the great bed of limestone at Closeburn on the opposite side of the Nith, although their connection cannot be distinctly traced, owing to a dislocation of the strata. Their chemical composition is, however, almost precisely the same; but at Closeburn there is a lower stratum of limestone which contains no magnesia, and is nearly pure carbonate of lime. This stratum has not as yet been found at Barjarg, which is probably owing to the quarry not having been worked to a sufficient depth.

The strata at Barjarg dip towards the north-east under a small angle, while at Porterstown the dip is more towards the east.

Sandstone occurs, lying above the limestone, and conformably with it, in both these quarries. At Barjarg there is a bed of hard red sandstone, 12 feet thick, under the limestone. At Porterstown the sandstone at the upper part is of a fine texture and whitish colour. This, as it approaches the limestone, becomes much mixed with mica, and acquires a slaty structure. At Waterside, sandstone occurs, accompanied with a variety of slate clay; and the appearances were such as to induce the proprietor to bore for coal some years since, but the attempt proved unsuccessful.

From the imperfect development of the limestone and sandstone, it is difficult to determine precisely the formation to which they belong. But it appears probable that they may be referred to the older part of the secondary series, and possibly to the lower part of the coal formation. Judging, however, from the general geological phenomena exhibited in this parish, we should be inclined to give it as our opinion that there is but little probability of coal being discovered, or at least, of its being found in such quantity as to repay the expense of working it.

The sandstone formation is entirely covered with alluvial matter to the depth of from 10 to 50 feet, consisting of gravel, sand, clay, &c. with masses, large and small, of all the different rocks, but principally greywacke. Occasionally pieces of coal and granite are found. Peat occupies some hollows containing oak and fir of large dimensions. The soil of the hills which rests on the greywacke is generally a rich loam, but full of stones. Much of the rock is entirely uncovered. In other places large loose masses of it impede the cultivation of a deep soil. In some cases these have been broken up and removed at very great expense; and so rich is the virgin soil, that above 100 Winchester bushels of oats have

been reaped on a single acre. The soil of the table-land is gravelly or sandy; in some rare instances, approaching to clayey, and very stony. From the nature and depth of the alluvium on which it rests, it is much drier than the soil of the hills, and more to be depended on for a crop. It is so well adapted for barley, that that grain often attains the weight of 55 and sometimes of 58 lbs. per imperial bushel.

Two lime-works are in active operation—one on the estate of Barjarg, the other on Porterstown. The lime is of a scorching quality, but for building and for manuring some kinds of land, it is frequently preferred to the milder lime of Closeburn.

*Zoology.*—In a small loch, a quarter of a mile north-west of the church, leeches are found. They are used in the neighbourhood, and sometimes sold. The kingfisher is often seen on the banks of the Scar. Fomarts are extremely abundant. Salmon begin to run up the rivers to spawn in the middle of November.

*Botany.\**—According to Mr Rae, in the manse garden there was “a fine stock of *Bryonia alba*. But I know not if it be there now; for the late Homer Grierson, surgeon-apothecary in Dumfries, told me that he got of the roots of it several times for making that drug called *Fæcula bryonia*.” The juice of *Veronica beccabunga*, called *wallink*, is much used for the diseases of infants.

Much natural wood, consisting of oak, ash, birch, and alder, intersects and adorns the lower grounds; and very extensive plantations have been formed of larch, fir, oak, and ash, all of which thrive well and promise to become very valuable. The sycamore grows with great rapidity. The most remarkable tree is the oak at Barjarg, in old title-deeds called the royal, the stag, or the blind oak. Mr Rae says it was called the deaf oak, “because if a person near it called to one on the other side he could not hear him.” By a joiner’s measurement it contains 520 feet of useful wood in the stem, and about 150 more in the branches. Others have calculated it, after a very careful measurement, when all the wood was taken into account, at above 800. Its stem is 68 feet high, and since some decayed branches were lopped off, it is growing with great luxuriance.

A silver fir, at the back of Barjarg House, brought upon carriages from Tinwald when of considerable size, is now 91 feet

\* No very rare plants, except the *Rhamnus frangula*, have been found in the parish; but in the MS. of this Account will be found a list of those which are the least common.

high. In 1810 it measured, at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet from the ground, 9 feet 2 inches. It now measures 9 feet 8. The lower branches drooping to the ground form a large tent. Of the six beautiful larches planted by Lord Tinwald, the largest now measures, at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet high, 8 feet 10 inches. In 1796, when sixty-five years old, it contained 74 feet of timber—it now contains 190.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

An account of the parish will be found in Macfarlane's MS., preserved in the Advocates' Library. There are also in the library of Barjarg, Notes for the History of the county of Dumfries, collected by the late F. H. Arundell, Esq. containing some notices of its history.

“ This paroch was anciently a pendicle of the Abbacy of Holywood, or (as some say) a viccaradge belonging to the paroch of Carlavrock, which was a parsonage belonging to the said abbacy, and so had at least a mediate dependence upon it. After the Reformation from Popery, the fews which us'd to be paid to the church, were gifted to the Earl of Morton; but he having disoblig'd the Sovereign, they were afterwards disponed to the Earl of Nithsdale.”—*Rae's History, MS.*

“ Kire of old, a pendicle of the abbacy and part of the parish of Holywood, and since the Reformation served by a substitute who supplied both places in the absence of the minister, but lately divided from it and erected into a parish by itself, and afterwards annexed to the presbytery of Penpont.”—*Macfarlane MS.*

“ It is not taxed in Bagimont's Roll, and therefore must have belonged to some monastery.”

“ The estate and baillery of Porterstoun was a separate jurisdiction till their final abolition, which the Douglasses of Drumlanrig had acquired in this parish.”

“ Barndennoch is conjectured by Hornby to have been the Carbantorizum of Ptolemy.”—*Pennant's Tour.*

*Land-owners.*—The heritors of the parish are the patrón, the Duke of Buccleuch; Sir Thomas Kirkpatrick, Bart. of Closeburn; James Hoggan, Esq. of Waterside; Godolphin Hunter Arundell, Esq. of Barjarg, now a minor; and William Copland, Esq. of Blackwood.

“ The chief heritor of the parish was the Earl of Nithsdale till 1702, when James Duke of Queensberry purchased the barony of Keir from William Earl of Nithsdale.”

*Family of Kirkpatrick of Closeburn.*—Various purchases have

since that time increased the property which the Duke of Buccleuch now holds in three large divisions, separating the possessions of the four other heritors, and forming nearly half the surface of the parish. Sir Thomas Kirkpatrick, Bart. of Closeburn, possesses the estate of Capenoch. It came into his family by the marriage of his grandfather with Susanna, daughter and heiress of James Grierson. This most ancient and distinguished family once possessed not only the estate of Closeburn, but a most extensive property in other parts of Nithsdale and in Annandale. Robert-Muir, now containing the Wanlockhead mines, belonged to them, and also the barony of Ross. Their earliest charter was granted by Alexander, King of Scots, in the eighteenth year of his reign, to Ivon Kirkpatrick, at which time they were a family of note. The part which Roger Kirkpatrick took in the death of the Red Comyn at Dumfries, February 10, 1306, is well known. "I'll mak sicker," the expression he used on that occasion, is still the family legend. From this time they held many of the highest offices of trust and honour, and added greatly to their possessions. In 1438, Thomas Kirkpatrick of Closeburn was one of the conservators of the truce with England. Sir James, the father of the present representative of the family, before he sold the estate of Closeburn, had opened the lime-works both on Closeburn and Keir, and was thus the originator of those improvements in agriculture which have since advanced so rapidly in this neighbourhood.

The grandfather of the present proprietor of Waterside purchased the property from a family of the name of Orr, one of whom, Alexander Orr, minister of Hoddam, had in 1725 married Agnes Dalrymple of Waterside, one of the family who had long possessed it.

Barjarg was in 1587 given by the Earl of Morton to Thomas Grierson, along with Penfillan and Penmurtie, which now belong to the Duke of Buccleuch. Mr C. Areskine, advocate, afterwards Lord Advocate and Lord Tinwald, married the heiress of this family and acquired the estate. Dr Hunter, Professor of Divinity in the University of Edinburgh, purchased it and left it to his son, W. F. Hunter, who assumed the name of Arundell. This gentleman, when he died in 1827, had made great progress in his preparations for a work on the history of the county.

Blackwood was purchased from the Lady Indergellie by William Copland, Esq. of Colliston, an ancestor of the present pro-

prietor. The Griersons, to whom a great part of the parish at one time belonged, were of the family of Lag.

*Parochial Registers.*—The parochial register of baptisms, commences in April 1722, and has been kept to the present time with considerable regularity; that of marriages and deaths from 1721 till 1791, and since 1826; session records, collections, and disbursements of poors' money, since 1692.

*Antiquities.*—A chapel is reported to have stood on Kilbride hill; and a cottage still remains, with walls about three feet thick, which is said to have been *the manse*. The position of the chapel is assigned to a spot on which the present farmer declares that he has often laid bare with the plough a piece of pavement composed of small stones, all of a size. A neighbouring patch of ground, on which the crops are always too luxuriant, is pointed out as the churchyard. A person lately dead used to tell that he had assisted in removing some of the grave-stones, and in collecting and burying scattered human bones.

Close to where the parish church now is, on the south-east side, stood an upright stone, six feet high, surrounded by three or four flat ones. It had no inscription, and bore the name of "The Grey stane." At the head of the ravine, formed by the Glen Lacht, Cleugh House, or Barndennoch burn, lies a large stone, called "The Siller stane," near which were found several stone axes. Some persons once attempted to split it with gunpowder, but at the first *blast* so dreadful a storm came on that they fled in terror! It is a boulder stone, of a highly crystalline texture, and principally composed of quartz and felspar. The piece which was blown off emits a strong ringing sound when struck or trod on. At a mill which once existed near it, the laird of Glen Lacht paid no multure, because the water came from his property. A stone, with the initials of James Renwick, on the ridge of Keir hill, above Staigholes, commemorates the place where he used to preach during the times of persecution. A small mound on the glebe is pointed out as the spot where the plague was buried. On the "Court Know" the neighbouring magistrates held a court.

*Modern Buildings.*—These are Capenoch, Barjarg, and Blackwood Houses. There is a mill for grain. The common materials for building are the whinstone of the hills, and the red sandstone from Gateloch Bridge, four to six miles off. This latter stone is so extremely pervious to water, that it requires to be painted or tarred. Many of the cottages are roofed with it. The rest are thatched.

The sandstone of the parish having generally a deep cover is little used, except what is quarried along with the lime. The church was built from a quarry on Capenoch.

### III.—POPULATION.

According to the Macfarlane MSS. there were in 1728, 500 examinable persons in the parish, which by the usual rules would give a population of 666. Dr Webster's report gives 495. In 1778, Mr Wallace found it to be only about 300. At the date of the last Statistical Account, it had risen to 520. In 1811, it was 993; in 1821, it was 987; in 1831, 1804. The lime-works and the great improvements in agriculture, especially in fencing, draining, and bringing waste land under tillage, have been the principal causes of the increase of population. 206 persons reside in villages; 878 in the country.

For the last seven years the average of births has been	28
marriages,	7
funerals,	17

Of individuals or families of independent fortune there reside in the parish in summer 5, in winter 3. The proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards are the five heritors.

Of unmarried men, bachelors, and widowers, upwards of 50 years of age, there are	23
women upwards of 45,	43

The number of families is 212. The average number of children to a marriage is 4

There are of fatuous persons, 2; insane, 1; deaf and dumb, 2.

### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture and Rural Economy.*—The arable land of the parish amounts to 2700 acres Scotch statute measure; meadow land about 600; pasture, 2096. Very little more is capable of being cultivated with profit. There are 538 acres of wood. The indigenous trees are oak, ash, birch, and alder, and more sparingly elm, gean, holly, willow, and crab. The planted trees are larch, Scotch, spruce, and silver firs, ash, sycamore, oak, beech, elm, and more sparingly horse-chestnut, poplars of various kinds, laburnum, (*Cytisus laburnum*, and *Cytisus alpinus*,) and birch. The greater part of the woods are well managed, but many of the plantations have not yet reached the productive state.

*Rent of Land.*—The average rent of arable land per Scotch statute acre is L. 1, 5s.; rent of grazing on hill-pasture, ox, L. 1; sheep, 4s; low ground, milch cow, L. 4; bullock, L. 2, 10s.; sheep, 10s.

*Rate of Labour, &c.*—Ploughman, with bed and board, L. 12 per annum; woman servant, with ditto, L. 5. Day labourers, 1s. 6d. per day; women, 10d; joiner and mason, 2s. 6d.; tailor with food,



1s. 3d. Price of articles of raw produce, potatoes per cwt. 1s.; butter per stone imperial, 9s. 4d.; skim milk cheese, ditto, 3s. 6d.

*Live-Stock, &c.*—There is nothing remarkable in the stock reared. The sheep on the hills are the black-faced, on the low ground *mugs*. The cattle are generally the Galloway breed. A few Ayrshire cows have been introduced. The mode of husbandry is a six years' rotation; 1st year, white crop, oats; 2d, potatoes, or turnip fed by sheep or raised for home feeding; 3d, barley or rarely wheat; 4th, hay; 5th and 6th, pasture. The practice of leaving some of the fallow naked is fast falling into disuse since the introduction of bone manure. It was common very lately to have two white crops, wheat and barley, after fallow. Landlords are now restricting their tenants to one. Improvements might be made in a more thorough cleaning of the land, a more careful selection of seed, in sheltering some farms by plantations, and in buying up the remaining multures.

A great extent of waste land has been reclaimed, so that double the quantity is now under cultivation since Mr Wallace's Account in 1778, and the sheep walks are now confined to the wild and rocky summits of the hills. The great difficulties which lay in the way of these improvements, were the draining of boggy land, and the removal of great quantities of large stones. No irrigation of importance has been attempted. The embankments along the rivers are kept in the best state, and the bed of the Scar has lately been altered so as to confine its waters to one channel, instead of allowing them to wind through the adjacent holms of Closeburn, and injure much valuable land.

The ordinary duration of leases is fifteen or nineteen years. From the circumstance of the year's crop belonging to the tenant who leaves a farm, and the new tenant having frequently to pay a whole year's rent before he reaps a crop, a large capital is required. But the leases are favourable to the tenant. Farm-buildings and enclosures are generally in a good state. On the Duke's farms they are almost all new, handsome, and commodious.

*Quarries.*—In the two lime quarries, the cover is very great, and the superincumbent strata so little tenacious, that it requires all to be removed. The rock is consequently worked at very great expense. The burning of it also is very costly, as all the fuel is brought from Sanquhar, a distance of fifteen miles. One bushel of coal is required for two and a-half of lime. The latter is sold at 6d. per Winchester bushel.

*Fisheries.*—In former periods salmon were so abundant in those

parts of the Nith and of the Scar which bound the parish, that it was no unusual circumstance with a net to fill a common cart twice in a few hours after a flood. But so destructive have been the effects of poaching in close time, that a tenant of the fishery where this used to happen, found himself a loser, while paying a rent of L. 1, 10s., and lately gave up his tack.

*Produce.*—The average amount of raw produce yearly raised in the parish may be as follows :

Grain with straw,	-	-	-	L. 5450
Green crop,	-	-	-	1827
Hay,	-	-	-	1760
Pasture,	-	-	-	2225
Gardens and orchards, including honey,	-	-	-	150
Woods and plantations,	-	-	-	320
Lime,	-	-	-	3850
Pork,	-	-	-	600

L. 15682

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Towns, &c.*—The nearest is Dumfries, eight miles distant from the foot and fifteen from the head of the parish. The villages in the parish are Keir Mill, and Barjarg. There is no post-office; letters being brought by a runner from Thornhill, two miles from the head of the parish. There are eight and a-half miles of turnpike road; seven on the road from Dumfries to Penpont; one on that from Penpont to Glencairn; and a-half on that from Dumfries to Thornhill, from the foot of the parish to Aldgirth bridge, on which the Edinburgh and Glasgow coaches travel.

Five bridges connect the parish with the adjoining ones. They are all in good repair. A suspension bridge of a new construction has lately been erected by the Duke of Buccleuch over the Scar, at the manse, on the parish road to Thornhill. Its span is 110 feet.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church is situated too near the upper end of the parish, being only a mile and a quarter from Penpont, and six miles from the lower extremity. It was built in 1814, and is in good repair. It accommodates 440 persons. There are no free sittings; the heritors assigning to their tenantry the space falling to their share over and above their own family seats. The manse was built in 1777, but received great additions and repairs in 1828. It contains three sitting-rooms and six bed-rooms, besides a large sunk story;—offering a singular contrast to that described by Mr Rae in 1721. “It is a very handsome house, consisting of four fire-rooms, with cellar and closets, and offices conform.” The glebe consists of ten acres, worth about L. 18 per annum. The stipend is fifteen chalders, half meal and half

barley. Converted into money on an average of the last eight years, the grain stipend paid by the Duke of Buccleuch, of about twelve chalders, amounts to L. 166, 14s. The money stipend by the four other heritors, who have surrendered their teinds, including the usual sum for communion elements, is L. 62, 14s. 4d.; total, L. 229, 8s. 4d. In 1728 the stipend was 650 merks, and three chalders of victual, two-thirds meal, one-third bear, besides thirty merks for communion elements.

The heads of 6 families are attached to the Relief; of 8 to the Secession; of 8 to the Reformed Presbytery; of 3 to the Romish church. All the remaining families, amounting to about 187, belong to the Established church, and as many members of the other families have joined it, that part of the population connected with it may be stated at 1000. Divine worship is remarkably well attended. The average number of communicants is about 600. Those belonging to the parish are about 445. The sacrament, as in many of the neighbouring parishes, takes place in the open air. In consequence of its being the latest in the district, and celebrated in a spot of singular beauty and adaptation for the purpose, it is attended by a very great number of people. The most perfect decorum, however, is observed, and, were the weather more generally favourable, few would desire to exchange this "temple built by God" for one "made with hands." The average amount of contributions for religious purposes by subscriptions and collections in church, besides the usual collections for the poor, has for the last six years been L. 16. For the last nine years the average of church collections for the poor has been L. 29, 2s.

*Education.*—There are two parochial schools, in which are taught Greek and Latin, mensuration and mathematics. The schoolmasters' salaries are L. 25, 13s. 4d. each, and the school fees amount to about L. 30 more. Both school-houses and the house of one of the masters, were built by subscription, the other master's house by the master himself. The heritors have, however, granted a considerable additional and repairs for the upper school-house and school. The expense of education is, for English, 2s. per quarter; do. and writing, 2s. 6d.; do. do. and arithmetic, 3s.; these and all other branches, 5s. The Kildare Street Society's Juvenile Library was lately gifted to the upper school by Mr John M'Millan, now Rector of the Dumfries Academy, and a Sabbath school library has been procured by a collection in church and donations.

*Poor.*—The average number of persons receiving aid from the

poors' fund is 10, at an average of 10s. per quarter. Occasional distress is also relieved. At present there are four orphan children belonging to the parish, boarded at L. 3, 10s. per annum. In addition to the quarterly distributions, coals and clothes are given in cases of urgent necessity. The church collections for these purposes amount to L. 29, 2s. on an average of the last nine years; during which time also a legacy of L. 25, left in 1827, by Mr Hunter Arundell of Barjarg, has been expended, and the heritors have twice of late given a voluntary contribution. At an annual *spiel* on the ice, as much is frequently collected from the players and spectators, as to purchase six or eight carts of coals, and twice that quantity when they are driven gratuitously. The good old Scottish love of independence and aversion to come on the poors' roll still exist in considerable force. Great efforts are often made by individuals to prevent themselves and relatives from becoming a burden on the parish. The kirk-session are extremely careful also to discourage all but the most necessitous applicants.

*Inns.*—There are a small inn, an alehouse, and a dram-shop in the parish.

*Fuel.*—Coal is brought from Sanquhar, fifteen miles, at 8s. per ten measures, or thirteen cwt. There is not much peat, and the wood is too expensive to burn. The decayed branches of the trees, however, (and the loppings form a considerable item,) are the fuel of some of the cottagers.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Since the date of the last Statistical Account, vast improvements have taken place. The roads have been made, and are now kept in excellent order. All the small lochs and marshes have been drained,—the meadows and arable land doubled,—the rivers embanked,—the sheep are now only half as numerous; but all other farm stock have greatly increased. The people in general, both farmers and cottagers, are much better lodged, their diet is improved, and greater attention is paid to cleanliness and comfort.

*January 1836.*

## PARISH OF TYNRON.

PRESBYTERY OF PENPONT, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.

THE REV. ROBERT WILSON, MINISTER.

---

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THE name of this parish, according to Chalmers in his Caledonia, was anciently written Tyndron; *Tin-troyn*, or *Tin-droyn*, in the ancient British tongue, and *Dun-ron* in the Irish signify “the fortified hill with a nose.” The name was applied to a round hill, which is still called the Dun or Doon of Tynron.

*Extent, Boundaries.*—The length of this parish, according to Mr Crawford’s measurement and the county plan, is 10 miles, and its breadth 3, which gives an area of  $22\frac{1}{2}$  square miles, or 11, 332 Scots acres; but I am inclined to think that it cannot be less than 12 miles in length, and about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  in breadth. Upon consulting the plans of the different estates, to all of which I have had access, the real measurement is found to be 11,796 acres, 3 roods, 17 falls. Tynron is bounded on the north by Penpont; on the east by Keir; on the south by Glencairn; and on the west by Glencairn and Dalry.

*Topographical Appearances.*—There are two ranges of hills in this parish, running from south-east to north-west. The one range terminates in the Doon of Tynron, and the other in the Doon of Maxwellton, in the parish of Glencairn. Lamgarroch and Cormiligan Bale are the highest of these hills,—which may be about 1800 feet above the level of the sea. The character of the hills is in accordance with the greywacke formation to which they belong, with the exception of Craigturrah and Croglin Craig, which are more precipitous. The climate upon the whole may be considered healthy.

*Hydrography.*—The only rivers are the Shinnel and the Scar. The former divides the parish into nearly two equal parts. The other forms the boundary with Penpont for about three miles on the north. Both rivers run in a south-easterly direction; but the Shinnel at the farm-house of Ford takes an easterly course until it

joins the Scar near the village of Penpont. There is a considerable waterfall in the Shinnel, known by the name of Aird-linn, a short distance below the manse,—which is very picturesque in consequence of the banks of the river being richly wooded.

*Mineralogy.*—The direction of the strata is generally from east to west, the dip inclining more or less to the south-east. The greywacke, which is the prevailing rock in this parish, contains a bed of clay-slate at Corfardine, which was at one time wrought by the Wanlockhead Mining Company, but has been abandoned from the inferior quality of the slate. There is also a bed of flinty slate or Lydian stone at Shinnelhead. An attempt was made at one time upon the farm of Stenhouse, near the march of Dalmakerran, to find lead; but it was soon abandoned, although some gentlemen from Wanlockhead thought it not unlikely that lead might yet be found there. Granite or any of the primitive rocks have never been found in this parish, with the exception of a small bed of disintegrated granite, which appears both on the estate of Landhall and on the Queensberry estate on the farm of Ford. The mica being of a very yellow colour, has been mistaken by inexperienced persons for gold.

*Botany.*—No rare plants worthy of notice. The natural woods are, oak, ash, birch, plane, mountain-ash, alder, and willow. Those planted are generally Scotch fir, spruce, silver, larch, balm of Gilead; and of late years, principally oak, and other hard woods mixed with the above varieties of fir.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Land-owners.*—The principal proprietor in the parish is His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry, who possesses nearly two-thirds of the whole parish.

*Parochial Registers.*—The first entry in the parish register is dated 17th January 1742; but the register was not regularly kept until 1828.

*Historical Notices.*—There was formerly a place of religious worship on the lands of Chapel, which are now united to the farm of Craigturrah; and another at Kirkconnel, which, like other places of the name, was dedicated to St Connel. The Doon of Tynron was formerly a place of strength, as the ditches on the side most difficult of access indicate. The foundations of an extensive building might lately have been traced on the top of this hill; and it is stated in Black's manuscript history of the Presbytery of Penpont, deposited in the Advocates' Library, that King Robert the Bruce, after the death of Cummin, was conducted to this as a

place of safety. “ The steep hill (says the author of the manuscript) called the Dune, is of a considerable height, upon the top of which there has been some habitation or fort. There have been in ancient times, on all hands of it, very thick woods and great about that place,—which made it the more inaccessible, into which King Robert Bruce is said to have been conducted by Roger Kirkpatrick of Closeburn, after they had killed the Comyn at Dumfries, which is nine miles from this place, whereabout it is probable that he did abide some time hereafter; and it is reported, that, during his abode there, he did often divert to a poor man’s cottage named Brownrig, situate in a small parcel of stoney ground encompassed with thick woods, where he was content sometimes with such mean accommodation as the place could afford. The poor man’s wife being advised to petition the King for somewhat, was so modest in her desires, that she sought no more than security for the croft in her husband’s possession, and a liberty of pasturage for a very few cattle of different kinds on the hill and the rest of the bounds, of which privilege that ancient family by the injury of time hath a long time been, and is deprived, but the croft continues in the possession of the heirs and successors lineally descended from this Brownrig and his wife; so that his family, being more ancient than rich, doth yet continue in the name, and, as they say, retain the old charter.”

*Antiquities.*—There are the remains of a Roman road leading from the Doon to Drumloff, and crossing the Shinnel above Stenhouse,—along the line of which Roman urns have been found filled with calcined bones. A few silver coins were discovered concealed beneath some stones at Pingarie Craig,—principally of the reign of the Roberts, and coined at Edinburgh. Formerly, there were three Roman cairns in the parish, all of which were opened; in the one at M<sup>c</sup>Question, which was the largest of the three, were found a stone coffin with fragments of bone, and a hammer made of stone; in the one at Land, there were also found a stone coffin, with fragments of bone and a stone hammer; in the one at Pingarie, nine stone coffins were found, and fragments of bone, the whole of which, with the surrounding stones to the distance of some feet, were fused into one mass. The Rev. Peter Rae, in his manuscript history of the Presbytery of Penpont, mentions a fourth cairn. “ I am informed, (says he,) that, in the Appin Hill, there is a high mount called Lamgarroch, upon the top of which there is a great cairn of

stones, under which it is reported one of the Kings of the Picts is buried.”

*Ecclesiastical History.*—The parish church is at present in a ruinous state; but is to be rebuilt next spring. It was erected about the beginning of the eighteenth century. Nearly one-half of it was rebuilt in the year 1750, when a considerable portion of the freestone was taken from the ancient castle on the top of the Doon. According to Chalmers and the Rev. Peter Rae, the church of Tynron belonged of old to the abbot and monks of Holywood, who enjoyed the rectorial tithes and revenues, and the cure was served by a vicar. At the Reformation, the rectorial tithes of the church were let for the payment of only L. 30 a-year. To the parish church of Tynron, there belonged lands of considerable extent, which, at the Reformation, passed into lay hands; after the Reformation, the church, with its tithes, was vested in the King by the general annexation act. They were afterwards granted in 1618 to John Murray of Lochmaben, who was created Earl of Annandale in 1625, and died in 1640. They were inherited by his son James, the second Earl of Annandale. The advowson of this church was afterwards acquired by William Duke of Queensberry, who died 1695. On the death of William the last Duke, in the year 1810, the patronage went to the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry, to whom it now belongs. In Mr Rae’s manuscript account of the Presbytery of Penpont, I observe a Robertus Welsh, Canonicus et Vicarius de Tynron. “He was succeeded, (observes Mr Rae,) in that vicarage by Mr Taylor; and the Reformation, or establishment of the Reformed Protestant religion in the Church of Scotland having taken place anno 1560, Mr Taylor renounced the Popish religion, and complied with the Reformation, wherefore he continued in the ministry of Tynron, and conformed to the act of Parliament made in the like cases. He enjoyed the kirk-lands during his life. Upon his conforming to the Protestant religion, he married and had children, and some of his posterity, as I am informed, are still living in that parish.”

### III.—POPULATION.

Population in 1801,	.	.	569
1811,	.	.	574
1821,	.	.	513
1831,	.	.	493

From 1811 to 1821, the decrease may be accounted for from a considerable portion of the land having been thrown out of cultivation in consequence of the reduced price of produce. From 1821 to the last census in 1831, it may be accounted for from the dif-



ferent arrangement which then took place of the Queensberry estate, —the farms on which have been twice let during that period, and considerably increased in size, in consequence of which some families removed into towns and villages.

The number of people residing in the village is	-	-	80
country,	-	-	417
The yearly average of births for the last seven years	-	-	10
deaths,	-	-	7
marriages,	-	-	5
The average number of persons under 15 years of age,	-	-	170
betwixt 15 and 30,	-	-	112
30 and 50,	-	-	119
50 and 70,	-	-	80
upwards of 70,	-	-	16
The number of unmarried men, bachelors, and widowers, upwards of 50 years of age,	-	-	11
women upwards of 45,	-	-	22
families in this parish	-	-	105
chiefly employed in agriculture,	-	-	59
in trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	-	-	13
Number of inhabited houses,	-	-	90
houses uninhabited,	-	-	1

During the last three years there have been six illegitimate births.

There are two heritors whose lands in this parish produce upwards of L. 600 of yearly rent; three upwards of L. 300; and three upwards of L. 50.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—This parish contains 2455 acres, 2 roods, 35 falls of land, which have been cultivated; and 8935 acres, 1 rood, 3 falls which have never been cultivated. To the ground already under tillage little more could be added with any prospect of remuneration to the farmer. The number of acres under wood is 405 acres, 3 roods, 19 falls, the greater part of which is thriving natural wood.

*Rent of Land.*—The average rent of arable land in the parish may be stated as follows:—250 acres at L. 1, 10s. per acre; 750 at L. 1 per acre; 1455 at 12s. 6d. per acre; pasture land, 8935 at 5s. per acre. The average rent of grazing bullocks during summer may be estimated at L. 1, 5s. per head; winter fodder for ditto, L. 1, 5s.; expense during twelve months, L. 2, 10s. The average rent of grazing cows during the season may be stated at L. 3, 10s. per head; winter fodder for do. L. 2, 10s.; expense during the season, L. 6. The average rent of grazing ewes during the season may be taken at 5s. per head.

*Rate of Wages.*—The rate of wages during the year for men-servants fit for all farm-work is from L. 10 to L. 13, besides victuals; women, for the same period, from L. 4 to L. 6. For mowing, a man generally earns from 1s. 6d. to 1s. 8d. per day, besides food.

During the harvest, which generally lasts five weeks, men receive from L. 2 to L. 2, 2s., and women from L. 1, 8s. to L. 1, 10s., and 3s. 6d. a-week during hay harvest. For all other kinds of work during summer, such as hoeing turnips, 9d. a-day without food.

*Line Stock.*—The common breeds of sheep in the parish are the Cheviot and Black-faced. The practice of crossing the Cheviot with the Leicester ram is now prevalent, and upon rich pastures may be considered as more remunerating to the farmer than the pure breed. However, this can never be advantageously carried to any great extent, as it would tend soon to diminish the pure breeds. The breeds of cattle are the Ayrshire and Galloway; but Highland cattle are grazed to a much greater extent than either. The usual mode of reclaiming waste land is by draining where necessary; and on dry soils, ploughing during summer, liming, and in the course of another year, ploughing,—taking one white crop, a crop of turnips planted with dung or bone manure, and feeding it off with sheep,—another white crop, and the ground sowed down for permanent pasture, with a sufficient quantity of ryegrass and clover seeds. But a shorter, more simple, and less expensive process is,—two ploughings at those seasons of the year when they can be accomplished with the least possible interference with the other arrangements of the farmer,—lime during the spring or summer,—and without a single white crop, at once to sow down with rape, ryegrass, and clover, when in the course of two months the land becomes ready for pasturage.—Leases are generally for nineteen years. The farm-steadings in the parish were generally erected within the last ten years, and are good and substantial. The improvements in fences, planting, and breaking up of waste land were carried on to a great extent from the year 1800 to 1812. About that period, the greatest improvers in this parish were the late Alexander Smith, Esq. of Landhall; the late James M' Turk, Esq. of Stenhouse; and the late William Smith, Esq. of M'Question. Now, the most liberal encouragement to improvement is given by His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry, as also by John Walker, Esq. of Crawfordton, the principal non-resident proprietors.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Means of Communication.*—Dumfries is the principal market-town, and sixteen miles distant. There is only one village in the parish. A daily post passes through it from Thornhill to Moniaive. The roads in the parish, fifteen miles in length, are

maintained by the statute labour funds, with the exception of one mile of turnpike. The bridges at Ford, Tynron Kirk, and Pingarie, afford sufficient accommodation over the Shinnel; and the one over the Scar near the junction of the Shinnel affords sufficient accommodation over that river; they are all in good repair.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The situation of the church could not be better chosen for the accommodation of the people. It is distant from the north-west end of the parish about ten miles; but the parish at that extremity is very thinly peopled. From the other extremity it is distant about two and a-half miles. The present church has been found insufficient; and a very handsome plan, furnished by Mr Burn of Edinburgh, to contain 314 sitters, has been contracted for, and is to be built next season at the expense of L. 975,—a sum, the liberality of which, (taking into consideration the small population,) reflects the highest credit upon the heritors.

My highly esteemed and much revered relative and friend, the late Rev. James Wilson, who preceded me in the pastoral office here, in his Account of the parish in the former work, makes the following observations under the head of donations to the parish and the poor: “The most remarkable donation that has been in the memory of the oldest man living, or indeed that appears from any written documents, was made in the year 1754 by Mr John Gibson, originally a native of the parish, and who in his younger years was rather in straitened circumstances. Some of his more wealthy friends, finding him possessed of a considerable share of genius, and fond of cultivating and improving it, administered to him the means necessary for this end. After a short time successfully spent in attention to his studies, he issued forth into active life; by the most perfect integrity of manners, and the most unwearied application to business, he increased both in reputation and wealth. In the latter part of his life he was married to a lady in London, by whom he had no children. He bequeathed to her all his property during her personal life, and after her death, which happened in the year 1762, L. 1500 was appointed by will to descend to the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge in Scotland. This Society, by their acceptance of this donation, bound themselves to pay annually to the parish of Tynron L. 35 Sterling,—L. 22 of this sum being paid by the treasurer of said Society to a schoolmaster appointed by Mr Gibson’s latter will to teach a school at or near Tynron Kirk; the school-

master found qualified by the Presbytery of Penpont, and certified to be so, to instruct in the principles of the Christian religion, to teach to read and write well, to cast accounts, to sing psalms at church and in private families, and also to teach any other parts of learning as shall be thought proper, and to be elected to his office by the minister and elders for the time being, and the heritors residing in the parish. The Presbytery examines the school annually, and upon their certificate of the schoolmaster's due election, diligence, and faithfulness in the discharge of his duty, he draws the salary above specified. The remaining L. 13, by the will of the donor, is appointed to be distributed annually by the kirk-session among twelve poor, sober, and industrious persons residing in the parish; the value of L. 6 to be given them in flax, adjudging the value of 10s. to each, accompanied with 10s. in cash,—the last 20s. being still kept in the hands of the treasurer for the poor till the yarn spun from the flax is inspected by proper judges, at which time it is adjudged in different proportions to four or five of the best spinners among the twelve. This donation has an excellent effect in encouraging industry among the poorer class, at the same time that it greatly tends to relieve their wants. A strict attention has been paid hitherto in acting up to the will of the donor both in the letter and spirit. And every thing at present, both in respect of the school and the gift to the poor, is upon the best and most agreeable footing. A very commodious house of two stories in height, in pursuance of the suggestions of the donor, was raised in the year 1765, in the near neighbourhood of the parish church, by the late Duke of Queensberry, and another public-spirited heritor. One large apartment is used for the school-room, and the rest of the house appointed for the accommodation of the teacher." The school-room of the donation school here alluded to has been added to the dwelling-house of the teacher; and a large and excellent school-room has been built partly by the heritors, and partly by public subscription. It was evidently the intention of the benevolent founder of this school, that the salary should not only be equal but superior to that of any of the parochial schools,—which it certainly was at the time of its foundation; but as the salaries of the parochial schools have been several times augmented since that period, they now exceed that of the schools in question. It is therefore to be hoped that the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge will, at no very distant period, see the propriety of granting a suitable augmentation. The manse

was built in the year 1785; and two additions have been built at different times,—which render it a comfortable and very commodious house. The extent of glebe, including houses and garden, is fourteen acres, three roods, which may be valued at L. 30 a-year. The stipend is 16 chalders, with L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements. Number of families attending the Established church, 73; number of persons, 246; number of families attending Dissenting chapels, 28; number of persons attending the same, 67. Divine service at the Established church is tolerably well attended, more especially in summer. The average number of communicants in the Established church, 170. Average amount of church collections about L. 15 a-year.

*Education.*—There are two schools in the parish, the one parochial, the other endowed. The branches of education taught in both schools, are Latin, Greek, English, writing and arithmetic. Fees for Latin and Greek per quarter, 4s.; English, 2s.; writing and arithmetic, 2s. 6d. The parochial schoolmaster has L. 25, 13s. 4d. of salary. He has a school-house, a comfortable dwelling-house, and one rood of good land. He does not receive more than L. 4 a-year of fees.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The number of persons receiving parochial aid varies according to circumstances; but may be about 20. The late Mr Wilson, in the former Statistical Account, says, “beside the weekly collections made for the poor, amounting to L. 11 or L. 12 annually, there is a small piece of landed property belonging to them yielding L. 7 of yearly rent. The number of poors’ names on the roll is 12 or 14. They have a pretty comfortable subsistence, and not one is known to go beyond the bounds of the parish as an itinerant beggar.” Only one beggar is yet known to go beyond the bounds of the parish, and the farm of Cairney Croft, the landed property above alluded to, is now let for L. 20 of yearly rent. With regard to Cairney Croft, the Rev. Mr Rae makes the following remarks: “Brownrig of Cairney Croft, though this is but small, yet I thought fit to mention it because of its antiquity. It is reported that King Robert Bruce, being in the beginning of his reign in bad circumstances, in regard the most of the gentry in the country having sworn fealty to King Edward Longshanks, had not yet joined him,—he came incognito in a morning to Cairney Croft, and asked Brownrig’s wife if she could give him any meat, for he was very hungry; to which she returned that she had nothing but *gredan* (meal and goat’s milk,) and he

replied that that was very good, whereupon she made him a *grad-dan*, which he supped very pleasantly, and then told her that he was the King; and asked her what he should give her, to which she answered that they desired nothing but their own ground they possessed, (a sign she was not covetous, it being at this day but worth fifty merks per annum, and was no doubt of small value then,) whereupon King Robert Bruce took parchment out of his pocket, and wrote a charter for the said land of Cairney Croft to the said — Brownrig, his heirs and assignees. John Brownrig of Cairney Croft, lately deceased, told me that William Duke of Queensberry was once pursuing him for his land, upon which he went to Edinburgh and consulted an advocate, who advised him to go home and search all his house, and bring him all papers he found in it; and that accordingly he returned, and noticing a *bowell* in the wall at the back of a bed which had not been opened for some ages, he opened the same, and found the said charter and some other papers, all which he carried into the advocate, who told him he needed not fear the pursuer, for he had as good a right to his land as the pursuer had to his. The said John Brownrig told me further, that William Philip, factor to Sir Robert Grierson of Lag, then proprietor of the barony of Aird, (within which bounds Cairney Croft lies,) persuaded him to give up that old charter, and take a new one holding of Lag, which in his simplicity he did. This family were weavers from one generation to another, from King Robert Bruce his days till the death of the said John Brownrig, but his sons Simon and — choosing rather to serve other men than to follow the occupation of their forefathers, have sold Cairney Croft to the kirk-session of Tynron.”

The annual amount of contributions for the poor, including Mr Gibson's mortification, may be stated at L. 50 a-year, and the annual distributions about the same sum.

*February 1836.*

## PARISH OF CANONBIE.

PRESBYTERY OF LANGHOLM, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.\*

THE REV. JAMES DONALDSON, MINISTER.

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name, Boundaries, &c.*—THERE are two opinions with regard to the derivation of the name of this parish. The one traces it to the Saxon word *Bie* or *By*, signifying a habitation or station,—making the term thus denote “the residence of the Canons;” the other, to the Latin *cœnobium*, which signifies a priory or monastery, and is a compound of the Greek adjective *κοινος*, common, and *βίος*, life, because the monks lived in common. The latter opinion is supported by the circumstance, that a piece of land, granted in donation to this priory, and specially designed in a charter confirmed by King William the Lion, in 1165, † is to the present day called Canonbie-holm, viz. the Priory-holm, as distinguishing it from Bee-holm, and Knotty-holm, which are in the immediate neighbourhood.

This parish is bounded on the south-east by the Liddle, which divides it from Cumberland; and on the north by Langholm. It extends 9 miles in length, in breadth 6, and contains 22,500 Scotch acres, or  $36\frac{1}{2}$  square miles.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The appearance of this parish is uneven, and diversified by a variety of ridges and flat ground, except the land which lies along the banks of the different rivers, which is generally level. Canonbie, therefore, may be regarded as the low grounds of Eskdale; for the highest grounds, which rise by degrees towards the east and north-east, cannot be called mountainous, when contrasted with the general appearance of the surrounding parishes of Langholm, Ewes, and Castleton. The central part of the parish is intersected by the river Esk; and the great post-road to the south by Carlisle passes in the same direction, through a part of the country rich and variegated with woody

\* Drawn up by a Probationer of the Church of Scotland.

† Ex dono Guido de Rossedale, assensu et consensu Rodolphi filii sui, quadraginta duas acras inter Esch et Lidle, ubi Esch et Lidle conveniunt.

hills of aged oaks, pastoral scenes, and verdant fields, which never cease to attract and arrest the attention of travellers; indeed, it is upon the whole one of the most picturesque and lovely districts in Scotland.

*Soil.*—The soil in this parish is various. Along the river Esk, is fine holm land of a light loam, exceedingly fertile, and well sheltered to the east and west by a considerable quantity of wood on the sloping grounds on each side of the river, the whole length of the parish from north to south. Upon this ground, crops of all kinds are highly productive, and early. On the banks of the Liddle, the soil is nearly of the same kind and quality as that along the Esk. On the higher grounds, the soil is cold, and of a wet clay mixed with moss, which, however, when properly limed, produces, in dry seasons, good crops of oats. From the recent improvements arising from draining and fencing, the greater part of this ground is now capable of carrying crops of all descriptions.

*Climate.*—The climate of the parish is rather moist, and though we have very heavy falls of rain during the season, the atmosphere appears to be by no means injurious either to health or vegetation; as there are a very considerable number of aged persons in the parish, and vegetation is earlier than in any parish of Eskdale. The climate, however, varies very much in different situations. Along the whole extent of the Esk, in this parish, which, as we have mentioned, is well sheltered on both sides, the air is found mild and temperate, even in severe seasons,—while, within the distance of two miles from that situation, it is keen and piercing.

The diseases common in this parish are rheumatism, consumption, and those of a nervous kind, brought on by the moistness of the atmosphere. Scrofula, about forty years ago, was rather prevalent, but, from care and attention with regard to matrimonial alliances, is now nearly extinct. The prevailing winds and the heaviest falls of rain are from the south-west.\*

*Hydrography.*—There are no lakes in the parish. The two principal rivers are the Esk and Liddle, the former having its source in the highest grounds of the parish of Eskdalemuir, and the latter in the extremity of the parish of Castleton. These rivers, after receiving in their different channels, which have nearly the same extent of twenty-four miles, a considerable number of tributary streams, fall into one another at the southmost part of this parish, when the Liddle loses its name and waters in the Esk,—

\* According to Colonel Mein's notes of the state of the weather for last year, rain fell more or less during 212 days.



which, after running from the point of junction about seven miles in a south-west direction, falls into the Solway Frith. The banks of the Liddle, which, for the space of four or five miles, forms the boundary with England, are beautifully diversified with natural woods and thriving plantations. Among the various interesting objects presented to our view on this river, Penton Linns is undoubtedly the first. At this particular spot, the river is very much contracted by stupendous rocks, which rise abruptly on each side, and force the water into a broken narrow channel. There is a terrace-walk along the ledge of this frightful and dangerous precipice on the Scottish side of the river, from which you see the waters dashing and boiling among the huge rocks that are scattered indiscriminately below. The perpendicular precipices which narrow the bed of the river are overgrown with copsewood in every tint of foliage. In the centre of these scenes of sublimity, an isolated rock, which has braved the fury of the waters for ages, adds not a little to the prospect, particularly in a high flood, when its summit is only visible in the midst of the raging waters, surrounded by a few shrubs and bushes. Tarras, a small river which rises in the parish of Ewes, and divides on the north-east quarter this parish from Langholm, falls into the Esk three miles below the town of Langholm. This stream is remarkable for its rugged channel, romantic and picturesque scenery. It flows with so much rapidity through a narrow channel among immense masses of rock, and is so much broken by falls, that any person whom it may chance to sweep away, would be dashed to pieces before he could be drowned by its waters, which occasioned the following popular saying :

Was ne'er ane drowned in Tarras, nor yet in doubt,  
For e'er the head can win down, the harns (brains) are out.

Its banks are beautifully covered with trees ; and we may mention, that this small stream gave the title of Earl to Walter Scott of Highchester, who married Lady Mary, eldest daughter of Francis Earl of Buccleuch. The patent bears date the 4th September 1660. Besides these rivers which we have mentioned, there are a great many burns or rivulets, such as Archerbeck and Rowanburn, both of which fall into the Liddle ; the others scarcely demand our notice. Many of these burns afford excellent sport to the angler.

*Mineral Springs.*—There are appearances of several chalybeate springs in various parts of this parish ; but the principal mineral well resorted to by invalids is that at Heathet, which is situated on

the English side of the Liddle. This water has been found of great advantage to persons labouring under scorbutic disorders and complaints of the stomach.

There is also a celebrated petrifying spring near the river Tarras, the only one known in the whole range of the country. Mr Keir of Langholm, late factor to his Grace the Duke of Buccleuch, collected the petrifications of moss, or fog, along the course of its stream, to the amount of several cart loads, which he caused to be burnt in the same way as limestone, and found it to be excellent manure, and to produce nearly the same effects as lime does.

*Geology.*—This parish abounds in coal, limestone, and freestone. The coal formation is found in hollows of the transition rocks. The sandstone rocks are very friable; and those found in the coal depositions consist of spherical concretions, which are again composed of curved lamellar concretions. Slate-clay of a greyish-black and ash-grey colour, which contains numerous impressions of shells, and sometimes also of ferns, is found; and clay-iron, in the form of spherical-shaped masses imbedded in slate clay, in the coal fields. Some of these spheres are from a few inches to three feet in diameter, and are exactly similar to those found in the coal fields of Mid-Lothian.

The coal, which is worked at the two collieries of Archerbeck and Byreburn, appears generally to be intermediate between slate and pitch-coal, sometimes inclining more to the one, sometimes more to the other. The principal coal seam at Archerbeck, let to an English gentleman of the name of Lomax, is 5 feet 10 inches thick; and three yards below this, it is 3 feet 4 inches thick, and the coal is wrought by an open level. At Byreburn, it is wrought by a water engine upon a new construction, the invention of the late Mr Keir of Millholm. It is moved by means of a large bucket of a square form, suspended from the end of a lever, having a valve at bottom in the centre, which, by machinery, is made to shut and open in the instant of time the bucket should fill and empty itself. The other end of the lever is fixed to the pump, spear, or rod, and, by the continued action of the bucket descending and ascending, filling and emptying the water it contains, which is of such a weight as to make the beam preponderate, the pumping is carried on, and the coal pit cleared of the water collected below. Limestone is found in great abundance in different parts of this parish, but more particularly on the east side of the Esk. The lime burnt at Harelaw is in greatest request, both as yielding

the purest and whitest and the largest quantity of powder from the bushel of shells. The lime quarries at Harelawhill and Holhouse are easily wrought, and seem inexhaustible; and the country for thirty miles round is abundantly supplied at 10d. per imperial bushel, four of which will fill a single horse cart. The race of the fine mills lately erected at Hollows is cut through strata of blue limestone; below which is a stratum of sandstone, schistus, and clay three feet thick, succeeded by a seam of coal four inches thick, which is presented at the mill sluice. On the west side of the Esk, near Hollows House Tower, a considerable body of shell limestone is found dipping south-east, and stretching towards Annandale, resembling the Kelhead and Arbigland rock. About forty yards above Blakebeck bridge are some thin strata of limestone dipping west one in four; beyond this, a body of grey sandstone appears. About a mile from the foot of the burn, are strata of limestone; and a little higher up are strata of blaes, succeeded by a seam of coal about four inches thick. The bed of the Esk below Langholm low bridge is founded on the primitive rock; from thence to a little below Canonbie it is occupied with the coal metals. From this point to the mouth of the river, the secondary strata of a reddish colour prevail. Freestone of various kinds is everywhere found in this parish,—which is well adapted for building, as being durable and easily wrought. It may be here mentioned, as a somewhat singular circumstance, that within the space of 200 yards in one particular place, coal and peat, limestone and freestone, may be digged.

*Zoology.*—All the common birds are found in the extensive woods of this parish.

Salmon, grilse, and sea-trout, previous to the building of a call by the late Dr Graham of Netherby, for the purpose of supplying his mills with water, were most abundant in the Esk and Liddle, and taken in vast numbers. On account of their run being intercepted, they are not now so plentiful, as it requires a considerable flood to enable them to get over this barricade. The whiten or herling (*Salmo albus*) and the common trout are also abundant in these streams. Indeed the Esk trout and whitens are held in high estimation, on account of their delicate flavour. Tarras is also famous for its good bull-trout, according to the old rhyme,

———“ And Tarras for a gude bull-trout,  
If it be ta'en in time.”

*Botany.*—In this parish, there are no very rare plants to be met

with ; though there is no parish in the district which abounds so much in woods. In the various plantations, oaks in particular are of large size, and seem well adapted for the soil. Planes, beeches, elms, firs of all kinds, ash and poplars grow rapidly, being properly fenced and pruned. Around Hollows Tower, there are some large oaks and plane trees. A limited quantity of oak is annually cut down, which furnishes bark to the tanner, and wood for the various purposes of the tenant.

A variety of orchards were planted about forty-eight years ago, at the expense of the Duke of Buccleuch, upon such farms as were thought most favourably situated for the purpose. They have all turned out well, yielding a fair proportion of fruit of good quality, —particularly those at Woodhouselees, Forge, Rowanburn, Priorliden, and the one at the manse.

#### II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Land-owners.*—The Duke of Buccleuch is the sole proprietor of this parish ; and its valuation in merks Scotch, with half of Morton annexed in 1703, is L. 7462, 6s. 8d.

*Eminent Men.*—Among the men of former times, noted for their border exploits, we may mention, as a native of this parish, the celebrated Johnnie Armstrong of Gilnockie, a brother of the laird of Mangerton, chief of the name, whose place of residence was at the Hollows. Johnnie and all his retinue were condemned and hanged upon growing trees at a place called Carlenrig Chapel, about ten miles above Hawick, on the high road to Langholm, by James V. ; also William Armstrong, called Will of Kinmont, a descendant of Gilnockie ; and Hector Armstrong, Harelaw, —whose exploits on the borders are well known.

In more modern times, we cannot overlook, as natives of this parish, the sons of the Rev. Mr Petrie, who died minister of Canonbie, —four of whom, by their talents and industry, acquired splendid fortunes. The eldest, Dr Robert Petrie, was an eminent physician in Lincoln, and a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians at Edinburgh ; the youngest, William Petrie, Esq. died second in Council at Madras, a man highly distinguished for his benevolence, and agreeable manners in private life, and for the great abilities with which he discharged the important duties of the public station which he filled. Dr Russell, author of the History of Modern Europe, and the celebrated Benjamin Bell, Esq. surgeon, were also natives of this parish.

*Antiquities.*—In this parish, which, from its locality, was more

exposed than any other in the district to the plundering incursions of the English borderers, the inhabitants were by no means inattentive in erecting strongholds as places of defence and protection against the visits of these ruthless marauders. In this parish, therefore, many vestiges of these strongholds can be distinctly traced. As the most entire of the kind, we may take notice of the tower of Hollows, the residence of John Armstrong. It was situated near the eastward of Hollows Bridge, upon a situation, which, in natural beauty, cannot be equalled in Scotland. It is in the form of an oblong square, extending in front about 60 feet in length, and at each end of the squares about 46; the height may be estimated at nearly 72 feet. It has two round turrets with loop-holes at each of the east and west angles, and is built of red sandstone; though now roofless, it must have been in former times a building of considerable strength.—At no great distance from Penton Linns, on the banks of the Liddle, was situated the strong tower of Harelaw, formerly the residence of Hector Armstrong, a famous freebooter. This was the Armstrong, who, from bribes held out to him by Regent Murray, betrayed the Earl of Northumberland into his hands, after he had fled to him for protection. In the year 1569, the Earls of Northumberland and Westmoreland, Ratcliffe, brother of the Earl of Sussex, &c. raised an army, and tendered their services to set at liberty from the power of her enemies, the unfortunate Queen Mary of Scotland, who was at the time a prisoner in England. They were unsuccessful in their attempt, and being forced to abandon their forces, fled to the Scottish borderers for protection. The Countess of Northumberland, the Earl of Westmoreland, and Ratcliffe, remained with Scott of Branxholm, and Kerr of Fairnihirst, till they were safely conveyed to the continent. The Earl of Northumberland, as already stated, took refuge with Hector of Harelaw, who treated him, for a considerable time, with every mark of confidence and regard; but these feelings gave way, and in the hopes of the large reward offered him by the Regent, he betrayed him into his hands, who carried him from Harelaw to Lochleven Castle, and who shortly after gave him up to Elizabeth, by whose orders he was executed. Armstrong profited little by this base act of treachery, as he soon after fell into poverty and disgrace, and his conduct became a proverb on the border, when a person betrayed his friend,—“that he had put on Hector of Harelaw’s coat.”—Besides the towers of Hollows and Harelaw, it appears from the remains that there had been one at

each of the following places, viz. Mumbyhirst, Auchonreveck, Hallgreen, Woodhouselees, and Sark, where Kinmont Willie was buried.

*Priory.*—The date of the charter confirmed by William the Lion in 1165, as mentioned in page 483, proves that this priory must have existed previous to that time; but for how long a period, after much investigation, the writer has not been able to make out with any degree of certainty. Some vestiges of the convent are still to be seen at Halgreen, about half a-mile to the east of the church. From Halgreen, a private road is still kept open through enclosed fields to the church, confirmed by use and wont. In the year 1533, Henry VIII. claimed this monastery, as having belonged at one time, as well as the whole parish, to England; and on this false pretence, ordered hostilities to be committed upon the Scottish borders. By some means, its destruction was not effected at this time by the English monarch, who would soon have expelled its pious inmates, and secured their revenues. In 1542, after the unfortunate surrender of the Scottish army at Solway Moss, the English soldiers pillaged and laid in ruins both the monastery and church. Some years ago, the *chrismatory*, a piece of singular and grotesque sculpture, was dug up in the church-yard, and is in the possession of the present incumbent.

*Roman Stations.*—The remains of a Roman station are very visible somewhat less than a mile to the east of Gilnockie, on the rising ground: it is evidently the first of the line of connection that was situated in Eskdale from the famous station at Netherby to Cattle-over, or o'er, the upper camp, in the parish of Eskdalemuir, which is of the oval form.

*Coins.*—A variety of Roman and English coins has been found in this parish at different times. The late clergyman, the Rev. John Russell, found an aureus denarius of the Emperor Nero, on a field in the glebe to the east of the church. A number of silver coins, which are in the possession of William Oliver, Esq. of Dinlabyre, were found on the 29th of October 1811, by a person who was employed in draining some marshy ground near the place where the rivulet Rowanburn falls into the Liddle. They were contained in an old purse, and some of them were remarkably entire. On one side is *Civias London*, the city of London, and on the reverse is *Edw. Angl. Dns. Hyb.* a contraction for *Eduardus, Angliæ Dominus Hybernæ*, Edward Lord of England and Ireland. We can have no doubt that these coins are all of Edward I. of England,—because, if they had been coins of any of the other Edwards, some figure

would have followed the name, as a part of the title of distinction of every king who comes after the first of the name. We may remark, that, during the reign of Edward I., there was a constant communication with Scotland, "the affairs of which," says Hume the historian, "form the most interesting period of his reign." From great numbers of coins of the same kind being found in various parts of Annandale, particularly around the burgh of Lochmaben, we are of opinion that these coins were secreted in Canonbie and Annandale, at the time when Warrenne, in 1298, marched an army of 40,000 men into the latter district to re-establish the authority of Edward, which Wallace had for some time so nobly opposed.

*Modern Buildings.*—Among these worthy of note, as held in feus from his Grace the Duke of Buccleuch, are, Woodhouselees, the occasional residence of George Bell, Esq. merchant, Leith; Forge, that of Pultney Mein, Esq.; Marsh House, of Colonel W. Mein; Crookholm, of Colonel N. Mein; and Woodslee, of George Scott Elliott, Esq. of Larriston.

The corn-mills erected some years ago at Hollows are extensive buildings, and the machinery of the most approved kind. These mills are driven by a subterranean dam cut through the solid rock, and, by this means, have at all seasons of the year an abundant supply of water from the Esk, near the banks of which they are situated.

### III.—POPULATION.

The population of this parish in 1755, amounted to 1738

	1794,	-	2725
	1801,	-	2580
	1811,	-	2704
	1821,	-	3084
	1831,	-	2997
Number of families in the parish,	-	-	595
chiefly employed in agriculture,	-	-	256
in handicraft,	-	-	198
all other families,	-	-	201
inhabited houses,	-	-	576
uninhabited,	-	-	9
Average number of baptisms for the last seven years,	-	-	72
deaths,	-	-	92
marriages,	-	-	27

*Character, &c. of the People.*—The dispositions and habits of the people of this parish have undergone, within these last fifty years, a wonderful change for the better. At that period, much of the spirit of the borderers pervaded the inhabitants; and gambling was carried on to such a degree that all industry was laid aside, so that many depended for their subsistence upon the precarious results

arising from their success in horse-racing and cock-fighting, which tend more, perhaps, than any other hazardous games, to demoralize the people. Great praise is due to the then Duke of Buccleuch in bringing about this happy change. The great improvements carried on by his Grace in the parish gave constant employment both to artisans and labourers; and as the Duke resided in the neighbourhood for some months during the busiest part of the year, and almost daily overlooked these improvements, he had an opportunity of knowing the character of each of the workmen, whom he encouraged and rewarded according to their industry; and offenders not only lost employment, but were obliged to leave the parish. The tenants are a highly respectable, intelligent, and independent class of men, who spare no expense or trouble in the improvement either of their farms or of their stock. As masters, they are kind and indulgent to their servants, and set them an example, in their walk and conduct, of all that is religious and moral.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

##### *Agriculture and Rural Economy.*—

This parish contains, in Scotch acres,	22,500
Of which there are cultivated, or occasionally in tillage,	16,000
In pasture, part of which may be cultivated,	5,500
Under valuable wood and plantations,	1,000

*Rent of Land.*—In a parish like this, where the soil is various, the rent per acre is regulated according to the quality. Some of the fine holm-land along the banks of the different rivers lets so high as L. 1, 10s. per acre; and on the high grounds from 2s. 6d. to 10s. The grazing of a milk cow or full-grown ox for the year, L. 2, 10s. to L. 4, 10s., and of a sheep 5s.

*Live-Stock.*—The common breed of sheep is the Cheviot, to the improvement of which the strictest attention is paid,—in selecting stock of the largest bone and finest symmetry to breed from. Farmers on the lower and enclosed grounds rear a considerable number of what they call half-bred, by crossing the largest Cheviot ewes with a Leicestershire ram; by which the size of the stock and quality of the wool are greatly improved. This stock is generally sold when lambs to English dealers. Betwixt 3000 and 4000 sheep are pastured in this parish. The Galloway breed of cattle is preferred over the whole district, as the best adapted for the pasture grounds. They thrive well, rise to a good size, find a ready market, and bring a fair remunerating price. Some farmers, however, in this parish rear considerable numbers of the Teeswater breed. Cows vary in price, according to age and con-



dition, from L. 6 to L. 12. Two year old stots (the age at which they are generally sold) bring from L. 5 to L. 8. Farm-horses, in good condition, may be purchased at from L. 18 to L. 30.

A great number of swine are fed for the English market in this parish. Every cottager has his pig.

*Husbandry.*—With regard to the state of husbandry in this parish, when contrasted with that adopted fifty years ago, perhaps no parish in Scotland has been so much improved in appearance. Under the superintendence of the late Mr Keir, new roads were made,—farms laid out and enclosed where the plough had never before entered,—suitable dwelling-houses and offices were built, and slated at the Duke's expense,—and leases granted to the tenants upon such terms as enabled them to carry on their improvements. All the modern improvements, therefore, in agriculture are introduced here, and carried forward with great spirit, as far as reclaiming waste land, draining, and enclosing can possibly go. The late James Bell, Esq. who possessed Woodhouselee, one of the largest farms in the parish, was amongst the first who set the example of improvement, and who, by his superior skill in farming operations, brought his farm from a state of nature to the highest condition of cultivation. The late George Bell, Esq. sixty-five years ago, was the first who introduced the culture of turnips in this district, and the laying down of his grass fields with clover. Mr Church, Tower of Sark, a very enterprising farmer, has of late years improved a considerable extent of mossy ground by broad ploughing and liming, which now yields him good crops. Leases taken within these few years are commonly for nine or thirteen years. There are no obstacles to improvement in this parish arising from the want of capital, or the want of encouragement by the noble proprietor.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Towns.*—Langholm, distant six miles from the church of Canonbie, is the post-town, and the nearest place where markets are held. Markets are held also at Longtown and Carlisle, the former distant six miles, and the latter fifteen. Ready sales for cattle, pork, and land produce of every kind, are found at both places.

*Means of Communication.*—In no parish in Scotland has so much been done to improve the means of communication as in Canonbie. About sixty years ago, every place out of the course of the river Esk was almost inaccessible, except during a very dry summer. Since that time, good roads have been made on the east and west

side of the parish, and branches carried from these to the principal farm steadings in the parish. For making and keeping these roads in a state of repair, the Duke of Buccleuch, at the time, appropriated five per cent. out of the whole land rent of the parish, with L. 50 additional from his private purse. A half-penny was also levied at the different coal pits upon every horse load, equal to 2d. the cart load,—besides the conversion of the statute labour, which was altogether inadequate at the time to carry on these great improvements. The whole annual amount may have been at the time about L. 400. The funds arising from the toll-bar, placed exactly upon the side of the Scotch dike, went entirely towards the repair of the post-road.

*Bridges.*—In this parish, there are ten bridges of one arch over the different rivulets, and a great number of smaller ones. Over the Esk there are two bridges,—one having three arches, and the other two; the former, distant a mile and a-half from the latter, was built about ninety years ago at the expense of the county. The parishioners who lived to the west of the river had no access to the church or to the east side, before this bridge was built, except by wading or crossing on horseback, or in a boat, when the water was not fordable. The boat having been overset at one time, and several persons drowned returning from church, and many individuals having lost their lives after this catastrophe, the building of this bridge was at last executed.

The other bridge was finished about forty-two years ago. It is built upon an extensive scale, and has a very striking appearance, which attracts even the attention of the most incurious traveller, who, if circumstances permit, halts to admire the beautiful scenery around him,—which, as far as wood and water, bank and brae go, is almost the finest landscape the imagination can paint. The span of the largest arch of this bridge is 70 feet, of the smaller one, 45; the height to the pass way 46 feet; and the extreme length 244. This bridge has been of the utmost utility to the country, by opening up a ready and safe communication, as well as shortening the distance several miles in going and returning from his Grace's colliery at Byreburnfoot. The turnpike road takes also a new direction for a mile and a-half, by which means a pretty long and heavy pull, from north to south, on the old road, and also, the most exposed situation on the road between Langholm and Longtown,—are avoided. The road which leads

from the east end of the new towards the old bridge, is cut along the side of a steep bank, covered with wood, forming something in the shape of an amphitheatre; at the south end of which, another bridge with two arches is built. These operations, for boldness of design, and from the labour and difficulty of execution, astonish every passenger. These works were finished at the Duke's private expense, and must have cost him many thousands of pounds. There is also a bridge erected lately over the Liddle above the Penton Linn, which opens a ready communication to England for the people of Liddesdale and the western part of Canonbie, which lies in that direction.

The Edinburgh and Carlisle mail, besides stage-coaches to London and various parts of England, travel through this parish.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church of Canonbie was dedicated to St Martin, and, as it stood upon the banks of the Liddle, it was often called the church of Liddle. In the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, it was called both the church of Liddle and the church of St Martins. When the canony was established in the twelfth century, it was called, “*Domus de religiosis de Liddal,*” before it obtained the name of Canonbie, the canons' residence. In the reign of David I., one Turgot de Rossedale, who then occupied the district on the lower Esk, founded a canony in connection with this church. He placed this canony on the peninsula which is formed by the junction of the rivers Esk and Liddle, and granted to it the adjoining lands, with the church of Kirk-Andrews, and its pertinents. The words in the original grant are, “*Ex dono Turg. de Rossedale domum religiosam de Lidle cum tota terra ei adjacente, ecclesiamque de Kirk-Andrews, cum omnibus ad illam pertinentibus.*” In the twelfth century, he gave it to the monks of Jedburgh. The church of Canonbie continued with the canony, which was a cell of Jedburgh, till the Reformation disunited and destroyed the whole. After the Reformation, the patronage and the tithes, with the whole property of the priory of Canonbie, were vested in the King by the general annexation act; afterwards they were granted to the Earl of Home in 1606, which grant was ratified in Parliament in 1621,—when a stipend of 500 merks yearly was settled on the minister serving the cures of Canonbie and Wauchope, which had been united by the King's Commissioners. They afterwards passed to the Earl of Buccleuch in the reign of Charles I. The Duke of Buccleuch is patron of the parish.

The present church, a handsome and elegant building, was erected in 1822, at an expense of L. 3000, and may contain 1000 sitters. It is very central, and stands on the east side of the Esk, near the village, which is on the west side. The manse was rebuilt in 1800, and since that time has undergone some substantial repairs, along with the office-houses. The glebe consists of 20 acres English of good arable land, including garden and office-houses. The stipend, according to last augmentation, dated 20th November 1822, is 16 chalders, half meal, half barley, payable according to the highest fiars of the county,—with L. 10 for communion elements. There are 516 families attending the Established church, and 68 families belonging to the Secession. There is neither an Episcopalian family nor a Catholic one in the parish. The average number of communicants is 805. Collections are occasionally made for the General Assembly's Highland Schools and Indian Mission; and there is a yearly subscription of one guinea to the Dumfries Royal Infirmary.

*Education.*—The number of schools in this parish, exclusive of Sabbath schools, is 5. The parish schoolmaster's salary is L. 31, 6s. 7d., with the legal accommodations. The teachers of the auxiliary, or, as they are called, side schools, are allowed as salary the sum of L. 5 each. These schools are placed at Glenzier, Harelaw Hill, Hag, and Tail. The probable amount of fees actually paid to the principal schoolmaster may amount to L. 30, allowing 25 per cent. for irrecoverable debts,—with the additional emoluments arising from the offices of session-clerk and collector of the poors' rates. The branches taught in the public school are English, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, French, Greek, and Latin. The charges per quarter for these branches are, English reading, 2s.; English and writing, 2s. 6d.; arithmetic, English grammar, and writing, 3s. 6d.; Greek and Latin, 5s. mathematics, 10s. 6d.; French, 7s. 6d.; and book-keeping (a complete system,) L. 1, 1s. There is not a single individual betwixt six and fifteen years of age unable to read. All the people appear very much alive to the benefits of education; hence they would sooner deprive themselves of many of the necessaries of life than that their children should be unable to read and write. From the number of schools in this parish, and no part of it being so far distant from some of them as to prevent attendance, no additional schools are required. There is not a coal-miner's child above six

years of age who cannot read a little, and repeat many of the questions in the Shorter and Mother's Catechisms.

*Library.*—A Library was instituted in this parish in 1813. The annual contribution for the purchasing of books is the sum of 4s. 6d. exclusive of entry money. Though not numerous, the books are very select; and the collection is under the best management.

*Charitable Institutions.*—There are two Friendly Societies in the parish, which have considerable funds for the relief of sick members. They have been in existence for many years, and have afforded relief to many distressed members and poor widows.

*Savings Bank.*—A Savings Bank was begun here sometime ago. As long as four per cent. was allowed upon the deposits, very considerable sums were lodged. Since the per centage was lowered, no money has been paid in for years, and the whole amount is withdrawn, except L 20 or L 30.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid at the present time is 75; but occasional assistance is given to 25 others. The average sum allotted to each of those who are upon the poors' roll is about L. 1 per quarter. Poor rates were established in this parish in the year 1773, when the annual amount was only L. 54, 2s.; which left a considerable surplus in the collector's hand, after affording the necessary relief to 24 persons, the whole poor then in the parish. At Martinmas 1793, the number of poor on the roll was 68, and the assessment for their support was L. 176 a year. Last year, the sum of L. 457, 15s. 8d. was distributed among the poor. Of this sum L. 408, 9s. 8d. was raised by assessment, at the rate of 1s. 2d. per pound, the landlord paying one-half, and the tenant the other; from church collections, L. 27, 5s.; from the use of a hearse, the property of the poor, and from fines for irregular marriages and immoral conduct, L. 21, 16s. We believe there is, with a few exceptions, a disposition among the poor to refrain from seeking parochial relief, which they consider as degrading. But, at the same time, it must be allowed, that this independent spirit is by no means so strong as it was forty years ago.

*Inns.*—There is one principal inn in the parish, kept in the most orderly manner, where travellers meet with every accommodation and comfort; also four alehouses in different places. These low tipping-houses produce the worst effects upon the morals of the people. It is much to be regretted that the Justices of Peace do

not refuse to grant licenses to toll-bar-keepers, two of whom in this parish sell ardent spirits.

*Fuel.*—This parish is most abundantly supplied with coal and peat, which are procured at a very small expense; a single horse load of coal costs from 4s. to 4s. 6d., and one of peat from 8d. to 1s. according to the distance.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The crops in this parish are generally cut down with the sickle, except on the farm of Woodhouselees. Mr Bell for many years has used the scythe; and, from experience, has found that there is a great saving of expense, grain, and fodder. Mr Bell states, that two mowers, with one person to collect the sheaves to each, and a man to bind and stook, will do more work than twice the number with the sickle. This practice is gaining ground.

In 1793, the rental of this parish did not much exceed L. 3000, now it is L. 7462, 10s.

The Duke has erected at his own expense kilns for making draining tiles, which he supplies to the tenants on their paying a per centage on the outlay. The Eskdale and Liddesdale Pastoral Society, which has its shows of stock for premiums, alternately at Langholm and Castletown, has been productive of the best effects in improving the breed of every description of farm stock.

*February 1836.*

# PARISH OF PENPONT.

PRESBYTERY OF PENPONT, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.

THE REV. GEORGE SMITH, MINISTER.

## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THIS parish is generally believed to have derived its name from a hanging bridge (*Pendens pons*) across the river Scarr, which separates one part of it from the adjoining parish of Tynron. If this etymology should be thought to ascribe little ingenuity to the aboriginal inhabitants of the soil, it is not thus chargeable in respect of their posterity. If any one can believe that the parish had no name until it was visited by the Romans, or that the name had then been changed,—or that it was ingeniously applied by the “masters of the world” from the peculiar structure of the bridge,—then to him the etymology will appear quite satisfactory. More probably, however, it is derived from the Celtic words *Ben* or *Pen*, signifying high, and *Pont*, a sharp crag or pointed cliff. Any one acquainted with the parish, and the striking outlines of the whole neighbourhood, will readily consider this to be the more rational etymology.\*

*Extent, Topographical Appearances, &c.*—This parish is contiguous to seven parishes, Tynron, Keir, Closeburn, Morton, Durrisdeer, Sanquhar, and Dalry. It is probably, from one extreme point to another, somewhere about 18 miles in length; but the inhabited part is from 15 to 16. There are not above nine houses farther off than 7 or 8 miles from the parish church; and the few, perhaps four, situated beyond 9 miles, are nearly in a line, indicated by the course of the Scarr. The parish is of an irregular form. The upper part of it is altogether pastoral, and diversified with numerous hills, varying perhaps from 500 to 1000 feet in height. Some of them around their bases are adorned with natu-

\* The latter idea has been suggested by that accomplished scholar the Rev. John Wightman, minister of Kirkmahoe. It has antiquity at least on its side; for whether we look to Glenquhargan Craig as its name-father, or to any rugged cliff in the neighbourhood, the cliff was at least older than the bridge.

ral copsewood, whilst their green summits are "clothed with flocks." Others are so rugged and precipitous, as in some degree to resemble the scenery of the Highlands. Glenquhargan Craig, situated about nine miles from the church, is frequently resorted to in summer by those who admire the wilder beauties of nature.

It presents an irregular and precipitous front to the south and south-west. It is said to be 1000 feet in height, which, if understood in reference to the level of the sea, may be not far from the truth. But if the height be taken from the adjoining valley, or the Scarr, which washes its base, it certainly does not appear to be underrated. The parish at this point may probably be from 3 to 4 miles broad. These distances are not given with perfect precision. But on the authority of an eminent surveyor, the parish is said to contain  $32\frac{1}{4}$  square miles, and 20,640 English acres.

The lower part of the parish is bounded very distinctly upon the west and south by the Scarr, which separates Penpont from Tynron, for about five miles; upon the south still by the Scarr, which separates it from Keir; and on the north or north-east for about three miles by the Nith, which separates it from Morton and Closeburn. Indeed, in consequence of a change in the channel both of the Nith and the Scarr, a small angle of the parish of Closeburn has been somewhat unceremoniously cut off from it, and in defiance of ecclesiastical statistics attached to Penpont. The Scarr rises near the extremity of the parish. Its course is marked by a hilly range on either side, extending from the north-west to the south-east, the one terminating in Glenquhargan Craig, the other on the south at Chanlock foot, in a beautiful round green hill, formerly covered with wood to the summit. When this hill is again planted, which, in the judicious and tasteful management of the estate to which it belongs, is about to take place, the landscape will bear to be compared to some of the most beautiful scenes in the Highlands.

About the middle of the parish, a hilly ridge extends towards the north, which terminates in Cairnkinnow, a hill of gradual ascent, 2080 feet above the level of the sea. On the north-east, for several miles, the parish is separated from the parish of Durrisdeer by the Mar or Park Burn, a small stream, which after adorning the policy and flower-gardens at Drumlanrig, falls into the Nith about a mile below the castle.

The parish is generally of a hilly character, and, comparatively speaking, there is little flat or low-lying land in it. The land of



the latter description is chiefly to be found upon the sides of the rivers, or not far removed from their banks. The surface of the more hilly parts is not considered to present very interesting features to the geologist. There are two sandstone quarries in it,—one upon His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch's lands at Hillhead, the other on the estate of Lauderdale Maitland, Esq. of Eccles. In both, abundance of excellent materials might be found for building; but they are not worked. The strata in both are nearly horizontal, or dip very slightly to the south-east. Detached pieces of lead ore have frequently been found in the parish. This may be of less consequence, however,—as, many years ago, it was brought thither in large quantities for the purpose of being smelted. Attempts were at one time made to discover lead upon the Eccles estate, and, as is said, with reasonable hopes of success. These attempts, however, were interrupted by some legal proceedings respecting the property, and they have never again been resumed. Of late, several pieces have been found in cutting a ditch along the public road leading from Penpont towards Sanquhar, about a mile from the village. One vein in particular has been discovered of a very promising character. It is said to resemble the veins that indicate lead at Wanlockhead and Lead-Hills, and to run precisely in the same direction, or nearly from south to north. Similar indications, it is thought, would be followed out with avidity by the miners in that quarter. And there is little doubt that here they will be thoroughly investigated.

It is said that coal was at one time found accidentally upon the Eccles estate when the then proprietor was raising materials for building a wall round his garden. Yet no scientific attempts have ever been made with a view to ascertain to what these hopeful symptoms might lead.

*Hydrography, &c.*—The river Scarr is one of the largest tributaries to the Nith, which it joins about three miles below the church of Penpont. It is a considerable stream, and at one time abounded greatly in trout. Its banks for probably seven miles are beautifully fringed with wood,—now rugged and precipitous, and again opening back into fertile valleys, presenting scenes of considerable variety and beauty. About half a mile from the village, toward the west, is the site of the bridge from which the parish is alleged to have derived its name. From its antiquity, its height, and the width of its span, it must have been an object of considerable curiosity. It was

originally designed for people upon foot or on horseback. Afterwards (in 1724,) it was widened to admit of carriages. But being still inconvenient, and probably insecure, it was taken down in 1801;—and a convenient and substantial bridge erected in its place. About half a-mile above this bridge, is Glenmarlin Pool, a rocky and narrow pass in the river, where the stream descends with such rapidity, and its waters are so broken as at all times to present a scene of great interest. It is indeed not unworthy to be compared with the Rumbling Bridge, near Dunkeld, to which it bears some resemblance. There are few more interesting rides in this part of the country than the road presents along the banks of the Scarr, as far as Glenquhargan Craig. From the rising ground in the vicinity of Arkland, the view of the valley, bounded by its wild or wooded hills, is remarkably sweet. And when the vista opens up with Chanlock foot in the distance, and apparently terminated by the round high hill behind, there are few scenes to be met with any where more picturesque. In summer, sea-trout are brought up by the heavy rains; and later in the season, salmon in considerable numbers. The latter are unfortunately destroyed in close time, it may be said, almost without let or hinderance. The present state of the law, as it refers to the Nith and its tributary streams, is considered by many to be injudicious. It closes the rivers as early as the 25th of September, when the fish are in excellent order. The angler is then deprived of his recreation, which might with safety be extended for several weeks, and the fish are in fact preserved for those who are less scrupulous about legal prohibitions. On the other hand, the 10th of March is too early a period for opening the rivers, as many spawned fish are then taken when they are nearly useless, and of course before they had returned to the sea.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Antiquities.*—There is one obelisk in the parish, upon the property of Mr Maxwell of Bailford; but no account can be got of it, worthy of being recorded. It is a narrow pillar about ten feet in height, with two steps of a stair around its base, or forming the socket in which it stands. It is covered with a sort of character, now almost defaced.

A somewhat curious tradition has come down to us regarding the stream that separates the parish from Durrisdeer, immediately opposite Drumlanrig Castle. It is expressed in a couplet, which

is ascribed to Thomas the Rhymer so far back as the thirteenth century. The words are,—

“ When the Park burn rins where never man saw,  
The Red-house of Hassock is near hand a fa’.”

In explanation of this prophetic couplet, it may be necessary to state, that the castle, which is built upon a piece of high table or flat land, in the gorge between two hills, must occupy the place of an older building of similar colour, to which the oracular prediction referred; for it is well known that the castle itself dates about four centuries later. It has various dates engraved on it, from 1675 to 1688, and is the workmanship of Inigo Jones. The word Hassock is said to be a corruption for “haus o’t,” signifying the throat or passage between the hills. It is said, likewise, that, in order to beautify the gardens with a cascade from the high ground behind, the course of this stream had been changed by Duke Charles of Queensberry; whereupon, the prophecy was fulfilled by the property coming in the year 1810 into the possession of the family of Buccleuch. Another poet, however, and better known than Thomas, has attached some celebrity to this beautiful streamlet. For it was beside it where Burns wrote the fine song, beginning

“ Their groves o’ sweet myrtles let foreign lands reckon.”

In the neighbourhood of Drumlanrig, there are still shewn the ruins of an ancient castle, called Tibbers Castle, and so called, it is thought, by one of the Roman generals, in honour of Tiberius Cæsar. The traces of this monument of antiquity are now nearly obliterated,—*etiam periere ruinæ*. In 1812, the lintels of a doorway were standing, and several steps of a winding staircase; but they have since been removed. From the niches then seen in the wall, it is conjectured that the outer doorway had been hung, and drew up and was let down, like a window,—while the inner apparently had been hinged. A labourer, who had been inadvertently allowed to pull down a part of the ruins, for the sake of the lime, found, about the doorway, various masses of lead, which might have been thrown upon assailants in a state of fusion, or may be supposed to have indicated the fate of the building itself. He also found a number of arrow heads, generally square and tapering to the point; a few were grooved out like the sides of a bayonet; and all of them were of a dark blue colour. There were found, likewise, broken pieces of earthenware, lined with metal resembling copper, of the thickness of tea-chest lead; and a spear head about two feet long, including socket, sharp-pointed and two-edged.

This castle is said to have been in the possession of the English at the time of Sir William Wallace. It is said, likewise, that, having heard of the depredations which the garrison committed in the neighbourhood, Wallace was desirous to avenge the wrongs of his countrymen, and that, to accomplish his purpose, he practised the following stratagem. Having observed a kiln smoking at Mallyford, a place in the immediate neighbourhood, and seen from the garrison, he hied thither in the morning, in the tattered garb of a mendicant, bent down with infirmities, and leaning upon a trusty staff. With the curiosity characteristic of his vocation, and on that account the more readily excused, he soon ascertained from the unsuspecting kilnman the strength of the garrison, and that he was engaged in drying grain for their use. Thereupon, he asks and obtains leave to prepare his breakfast, or to "roast a herring" at the kiln fire. And in return for this accommodation, he agreed to take charge of the kiln while the keeper was away for a similar purpose. As soon as he had gone, Wallace seized the moment, set the kiln on fire, and returned unperceived to a party of his men who lay in ambush in the Keely Cleugh, a woody dell near the castle. The flames in the meantime soon burst through the roof, and the garrison flew to save their grain. While they were engaged in extinguishing the flames, Wallace and his party rushed to the gate, secured the drawbridge, and set the castle on fire. Whether this story be true or not, it is generally believed; but, unfortunately, the means of verifying, or of refuting it, are not at present within reach.\*

*Legend of the Dowloch.*—There was a small loch in the parish, from about 70 yards in breadth to about 120 in length, near the summit of the hilly ridge about a mile to the south of Drumlanrig; but which, by draining, has been somewhat shorn of its fair proportions. It was called the Dow-Dhu or Black Loch, as the word signifies in Gaelic, and was reputed to possess extraordinary virtue

\* Though the parish may not be distinguished by any extraordinary individuals now living within its bounds, yet the inhabitants still cherish the remembrance of one remarkable for strength, and who died near the beginning of last century. This was the celebrated John M'Caul, or Strong Glenmannow, who occupied a farm of this name about a mile from Glenquhargan, upon the banks of the Soarr. This individual is stated to have been tall and stoutly built, as, indeed, was evinced by the size of the bones brought to light on the opening of his grave. The late schoolmaster, who has deemed the feats of Glenmannow worthy of a place in the parochial register, remembered the opening of the grave, and his being struck with the size of the strong man's remains, particularly the skull. Whether all the anecdotes current are to be implicitly believed may perhaps admit of some doubt. He died in 1705, at the age of eighty-four.

in the healing of diseases. It seems to have been looked upon as a perpetual Bethesda, for its waters were reputed to be efficacious in the cure of every disease, but especially of cattle subjected to the spells of witchcraft. It was not necessary that the person ailing should himself visit the loch. This might often have involved considerable hazard; and if the prudent alternative had not been adopted of employing a deputy, the number of cures consequent upon their use would probably have been considerably diminished. To accomplish the end desired, however, the deputy was required to observe certain rules. He had to carry a part of the dress of the person ailing, or of the furniture of the animal bewitched, as an offering to the spirit of the loch. Whether any of the contingent virtue might not first accrue to the raiment from lustration in the loch, is not declared. But when the person had reached it, he had to draw water in a vessel, which was on no account to touch the ground,—to turn himself round with the sun,—and to throw his offering to the spirit over his left shoulder,—formalities all indicative of a Druidical origin,—and to carry the water, without having once looked back, to the sick person or animal, to be drank. All this, moreover, was to be done in absolute silence. Like the prophet's servant, the messenger was to salute no one by the way. If, after an observance of this ritual to the very letter, expectations were sometimes baulked, is it uncharitable to suppose that the temptation to violate the injunction of silence sometimes proved too strong for the virtue of the messenger? Whether the inefficacy of the water may be ascribed to any defect in the prescribed form or to another cause, it certainly is now of no longer avail even to cattle, unless, perhaps, to the fleecy flocks that pasture beside it. Yet it is not long since the virtue of Dowloch was put to the test, as individuals are now alive of undoubted veracity and intelligence, who have seen the votive offerings floating on the lake, or scattered around its banks. And to such a degree had the habit prevailed in earlier times, that Mr Murray, the minister who lived till 1736, was regularly in the habit of debarring from the sacrament those who had engaged in the heathenish practice.

The particulars of this somewhat curious history are partially confirmed and illustrated by an expression still to be met with in the neighbourhood, but at one time said to be proverbial. Whenever an individual did not return the usual civilities, on being met upon the road, or who, when addressed, whether in the day time or under cloud of night, found it convenient to keep silence,

the shrewd guess, that he "had been at the Dowloch," both suggested an excuse for taciturnity, and a reason for not farther attempting to break it. The medical faculty will learn no doubt with dismay, that the Noble proprietor is about to restore Dowloch to all its former glory; some have hinted, for the less poetic purpose of accommodating wild-fowl. But if any one of that truly Noble house should ever stand in need of the charmed water, this much may be safely affirmed, that it were deeply to be deplored, if there were not at command greatly less questionable aid.

Will it be thought to be beneath the dignity of Statistical literature, to record matters of such questionable veracity, beside details which are only valuable, if admitting of the most rigid scrutiny? Perhaps the moralist will find an excuse, in the illustration they afford of the state of society, at a period not very remote from our own.

*Land-owners.*—There are nine heritors in the parish who pay stipend. Of the whole valued rent, L. 6799, 8s., L. 5644, 8s. 4d. is attached to the property of his Grace the Duke of Buccleuch.

*Gardens at Drumlanrig Castle.*—Drumlanrig Castle, his Grace's Dumfries-shire residence, stands at the extremity of the parish of Durrisdeer, and within a few hundred yards of the parish of Penpont. A part of the pleasure grounds attached, and the extensive new gardens, which were begun about six years ago, and are scarcely yet finished, are situated within the parish of Penpont. These, with the elegant cottage for the accommodation of the gardener, designed by Mr Burn, the architect, *have* been made at an expense of nearly L. 11,000. And the soil being excellent, and the whole establishment under the most judicious management, in a few years they will be as productive as any in Scotland. The position of the gardens, in point of taste, may perhaps be questioned; but no other locality held out the same advantages in point of soil, extent, aspect and shelter. The vegetable garden is four-acres within the walls; and the quality of its productions not excelled by Covent Garden market itself. There are 600 feet of glass divided as follows: 100 allotted to vinery; 100 to peach-house; 100 to Dutch peach-pit; 100 to pine stove; 50 to succession pine-house; 100 to forcing-frames, for melons, cucumbers, &c.; and 50 to an exotic stove. In these, excepting the forcing-frames, water is employed to produce the necessary degree of heat, and all the departments are kept in the most beautiful order. The exotic stove contains many of the

choicest varieties of the vegetable kingdom, particularly of the class *Orchideæ*, or tropical parasitic plants, which are found upon the bark of trees, rocks, &c. in these warm regions; such as, the *Stanhopea insignis*, *Oncidium divaricatum*, *Cypripedium insigne*, *Catleya crispa*, *Rinanthera coccinea*, or Chinese air plant, *Epidendron cochleatum*, *Oncidium papilio*, or butterfly plant, &c. There are here likewise the *Musa coccinea*, *Musa sapientum*, *Dendrobium Pierardi*, *Astrapæa Wallichii*, or lightning plant, so called from the splendour of its flower. On the back wall of the stove the *Passiflora edulis* fruits freely, as also in the pine-stove. There is, here, also, the *Passiflora quadrangularis*, and the *Quisqualis Indica*, which flowered beautifully in 1835. The *Nepenthes distillatoria* or pitcher plant may likewise be mentioned, as also *Dionæa muscipula*, or Venus's fly-trap, *Hybiscus splendens*, and the *Cattleianum*, which bears that luscious fruit of which Guava jelly is made. It fruits here readily. But it is impossible to specify all the attractions that are here presented to the botanist or the lover of the beauties of nature. It is only justice to the Noble proprietor to add, that every facility is afforded to strangers to gratify their curiosity here, or in the lovely flower gardens in the immediate vicinity of the castle.

*Parochial Registers.*—Little authentic information can now be gathered regarding the ancient statistics of the parish. Unhappily a fire, which happened in the manse during the ministry of Mr Murray, consumed the parochial records; and those which exist commence only at 1728, and have been very irregularly kept. The first entry in the record of births and baptisms is of date 15th November 1728. With a view to the preservation and classification of the ancient parochial records of Scotland, the Presbytery of the bounds lately instituted an inquiry regarding the state of such documents in every parish under their ecclesiastical superintendence; and the following is extracted from the report of the committee relative to those of Penpont. "The register of births and baptisms is irregularly kept down to 1833. Since that period it has been kept regularly, as far as the children of parents who belong to the Establishment are concerned. Those parents who belong to other religious denominations seldom apply for registration. There is no record of marriages or of deaths." The extract abundantly shows the defective and utterly inadequate manner in which these records have been and still are kept. Similar defects and irregularities are very general; and it would be not unworthy of the Legislature to attempt a remedy.

## III.—POPULATION.

In 1801, the population amounted to 966, there being 455 males and 511 females.			
1811, - - - -	1016,	- 478	- 538
1821, - - - -	1085,	- 519	- 566
1831, - - - -	1232,	- 578	- 659

Of these there were, by the schoolmaster's memoranda, under fifteen years of age, 441; between fifteen and thirty, 347; between thirty and fifty, 268; between fifty and seventy, 145; and above seventy, 31. The yearly average of marriages may be stated on the same authority at 10. Neither the births nor the deaths can be given with perfect accuracy, for the reason assigned in the report formerly quoted.

The population is scattered over the parish very irregularly. About 570 belong to the villages of Penpont, Burnhead, Townhead of Penpont, and Brierbush. Indeed, with the exception of Burnhead, which is within half a mile of the Nith, the other three may almost be considered as one village with its suburbs. There is a tendency in the village population somewhat to increase its relative proportion to the country part of it. His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch is understood to be inclined rather to the system of having large farms, and of erecting substantial buildings with all necessary and suitable accommodations, than of subdividing them, and having numerous cottars attached. Some cottages upon his estates, that had become ruinous, have not been rebuilt; and of course, their former occupants have found their way into the villages.

The number of illegitimate children born within the last three years may be stated at 4. And it may likewise be of importance to state, that there are probably not more than three fatuous persons in a population of 1261.

*Language, Customs.*—There can be no doubt that society here has made considerable progress in intelligence within the last forty years; and that the language of the inhabitants has participated in the general improvement. Yet to one not a native of Nithsdale it perhaps would seem that modes of expression are employed indicative of greater antiquity than in the adjoining districts,—than in Ayrshire for example. One often hears, even from men of intelligence and education, of the *Parochin* of Penpont. And no mode of expression is more common than to use *but* for *without*. It would be injudicious, however, to record other peculiarities of idiom, which, in the rapid course of intellectual improvement in the parish, may soon themselves become obsolete.



Customs still prevail here, which in a great measure are discontinued elsewhere. But, let it not be rashly spoken whether they are more honoured in the breach or the observance. Upon occasion of marriages, guests are frequently invited, greatly more numerous than the happy couple could afford to entertain. To obviate this inconvenience, a sum of money, varying according to circumstances, is levied from the gentlemen. A sum equal to 1s. 6d. from each will furnish music for the dance, and refreshments to exhilarate; and thus the wedding is celebrated by a numerous party, and the festivities go off with eclat.

The funerals in the parish are often accompanied with greatly more expense than the relatives can afford, though considerable improvement in this respect has of late been effected. The good sense of the inhabitants is, of its own accord, gradually working out a cure. Would it be believed, that individuals in circumstances the reverse of affluent would incur expense, not only for things that are necessary or suitable for such solemnities, but even for show, to an extent which perhaps they may never be able to defray. Yet such things have been known. If such inability were occasioned by the unavoidable dispensations of Providence, and if such extravagance were incurred from a sacred regard to the dead, or a mistaken desire to do honour to their remains, one would endeavour to probe this wound with all tenderness and delicacy. But if it proceed from a silly vanity,—from a desire to rival or excel others in expense,—regardless alike of the claims of justice and the calls of affection,—it can hardly be reprobated too severely.

It would be altogether inexcusable to omit, under this head, the prowess of the parish in the national game of curling. It might, indeed, adopt the motto of the 2d Dragoons, better known by the name of the Scots Greys; for every player must maintain that the parish is “second to none.” And that the immortal Cairnie, in his elaborate treatise upon curling, should have omitted to do her justice, is one of those capital errors which perhaps cannot be satisfactorily explained.

*Character of the People.*—The parish may be considered as entirely of an agricultural character. There are no manufactories within it, nor machinery,—except such as is employed for agricultural purposes. It is true there is the ordinary variety of crafts in the village; but such trades are called into being by the exigencies of the farmer, and are dependent upon him for their existence. There are likewise retail shops in abundance,—no fewer than eight.

There are also five inns,—enough, and more than enough, for the morals of the people. It is at same time true, that in general the people merit the character of sobriety. The farmers are intelligent, some of them remarkably so, while their servants, the shepherds, in the more pastoral parts of the parish, perhaps from the leisure they enjoy, and their distance from society, exhibit more information, particularly on matters connected with religion, than others who occupy a corresponding grade in society. The situation of the lower classes ought to be unusually comfortable at present from the abundance of work, and the cheapness of provisions. If the calculation be a fair one, that the labourer is well provided when he can earn a peck or half a stone of meal in the day, he must be much better provided when he can earn double,—as is here often the case. The labourer's wages in winter are 1s. 4d. : in summer, 1s. 6d. sometimes 1s. 8d. per day ; while the wright and mason consider themselves entitled to 2s. The rate of labour varies less throughout the year than may seem altogether reasonable. But the wants of the labourer are even greater in winter than in summer, though his labour at this period cannot be so productive to his employer. The wages of a man-servant may be stated at about L. 6 in the half year, while those of female servants vary from L. 2 to L. 3, or even L. 4. The food of this class of the inhabitants is plain, but substantial and nutritive. Oatmeal in the morning constitutes the regular food of the agricultural labourer ; the same, or potatoes, in the evening ; and generally they have broth with butcher meat of some kind, or cheese, to dinner.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—It is by no means an easy matter to give correct details regarding the agriculture of the parish. The utmost, therefore, that can be offered, is only an approximation to the truth. It contains from thirty-five to forty farms of very varying extent ; and perhaps about an eighth of the whole surface might admit of being brought under tillage. This, however, could not be effected without great expense, and the land not already reclaimed is much more profitably occupied in the feeding of sheep. There are probably not more than two proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards, resident upon their own lands in the parish. Extensive plantations have lately been made in it, of all the more common kinds of timber, which in a few years will greatly increase its beauty. Upon the estate of the Duke of Buccleuch, the extensive plantations are rapidly increasing. Preparations are already made for plant-

ing about 150 acres, this season. In the higher and wilder districts of the parish, there is natural copsewood, chiefly of hazel, to a considerable extent, which, though unprofitable, adds much to the beauties of the landscape. The wood in the glens, and upon the rugged braes, is chiefly oak,—a species of wood, which, whether natural or planted, is admirably adapted to the soil. From the extent of wood in the parish,—the variety of hill and dale,—and the numerous streams with which it is intersected, there can be no doubt that, in a few years, it will be one of the most beautiful and romantic parishes, not only in Dumfries-shire, but in the lowlands of Scotland.

*Rent of Land.*—As there is no parish which presents a greater variety of prospect and of surface, so there is none where the land is of more varying value. In the holms upon the banks of the Nith, which for several years have been under the most judicious management, the value may not be considered too high, if estimated at L. 2, 10s. or L. 3 per acre; and from this may be found land at every intermediate rate, to the lowest denomination of Sterling money. A cow's grass yearly may be said to run from L. 4 to L. 5, while that of an ox may be rated at L. 3. The wood that is employed for agricultural implements may be purchased readily at 2s. per foot.

*Rate of Wages.*—The rates of wages are specified under the head Population.

*Husbandry.*—The agriculture of the parish may be considered as steadily advancing. The farms upon the estate of the Duke of Buccleuch have been let last summer for nineteen years, upon terms favourable to landlord and tenant. And the spirit of true liberality and encouragement with which the tenants are met in regard to enclosures, and reclaiming land by freeing it of stones, by liming, draining, or otherwise,—holds out the hope, that before the expiry of these leases, the estate will be most materially improved, and the tenants substantially benefited. Upon the part of the Queensberry estate situated in the parish of Penpont, there are now erecting farm-houses and offices of the most substantial kind. When they are completed, no farmers in the kingdom will be more comfortably, and few so elegantly accommodated. There can be little doubt of the wisdom of those extensive landed proprietors, who promote the substantial comfort, and thereby indirectly raise the character, of their tenantry. It would probably seem paradoxical to affirm that the house will affect the character of its occupant.

But when agriculturists are raised from the status of serfs, or labourers, or middlemen, and enabled and accustomed to participate in the substantial comforts, not to say the luxuries of civilized life,—independently of the feelings of respectful attachment which they cherish towards those through whom these are enjoyed,—there is an interest created in the permanency of all those social arrangements, and of the very constitution of society by which, under Providence, they are guaranteed. If Sterne's theory be a sound one, that, in order to write like a gentleman, it is necessary for the writer to put on clean linen and dress genteelly,—to give the agriculturists all the accommodations, not of country squires, but of substantial, well-educated yeomen, leads not indirectly to create and to foster in them the same principles and feelings which characterize the landlords themselves.

The progress of improvement within a limited period has, perhaps, in no case been more strikingly exhibited than in the parish of Penpont. Districts of land, perhaps it would not be wide of the truth to say whole farms, may now be pointed out, that are three times more productive at present than they were thirty years ago. Turnip husbandry is gradually extending, and where the crop has been eaten off with sheep, the effects are abundantly visible in the following crop. Districts formerly unenclosed are now judiciously fenced, and a spirit of improvement everywhere manifested by an enterprising tenantry.

Perhaps in no respect would the parish as a whole be more benefited than by an extension of the roads in it. It may excite surprise to state, that, until this season, there cannot be said to have been a made or passable road for more than seven miles up the parish. It is hoped that, ere long, one may explore on horseback the beauties of the most remote pastoral districts, with safety and comfort. The turnpike roads, however, are excellent; they extend to about eleven miles. The bridges, too, are in good order, except where the ledges have suffered through that wantonness said to be peculiar to Scotland.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Penpont is situated about fifteen miles from Dumfries, the county town. The post-office nearest it is in the village of Thornhill, distant about two miles. It enjoys, however, the benefit of a daily runner in his progress to and from Minnyhive.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church is situated at the lower extremity of the parish, about 150 yards from the village. It was built

in 1782, and thoroughly repaired in 1834, at an expense of L. 240. A session-house was likewise added to it, with a new entrance to the church underneath, at a further expense of L. 100. The church is in the form common to the period in which it was built. It stands on three parts of a cross, one of which had at one time been built up, but is again opened and comfortably seated. It has a neat small gallery attached, which the Duke of Buccleuch erected at his own expense. The church is seated for 408, including the gallery, and has communion tables capable of containing about 80 communicants. The communion cups bear the dates 1363 and 1366; and it is worthy of being mentioned, that not till the year 1834 had the Lord's supper ever been dispensed in the church, the service previously having been conducted in the open air. The seats in the church are about to be legally divided. The congregation have hitherto been well accommodated, without being asked for a farthing of rent by the heritors. Perhaps in no spot could the church have been placed more conveniently for the parishioners generally,—though one family attached to the Establishment are fully fourteen miles away from it. The present incumbent, Mr Smith, was inducted in 1833, after having been several years minister of the second charge in Kilmarnock.

There are other two places of worship in the parish besides the Established Church,—the one belonging to the Reformed Presbytery, which was built in 1791, and is capable of containing about 500 sitters; the other to the Relief, erected in the year 1800, and seated for 700. These congregations are supplied with ministers of great respectability. Mr Carmichael, of the Reformed Presbytery, has not yet been a twelvemonth ordained. Mr Dobbie, of the Relief, being somewhat advanced in life, is about to avail himself of the aid of an assistant and successor, a Mr John Smith, in whose favour a call has been very harmoniously moderated. It is no more than justice to these congregations to say, that individuals belong to them as intelligent and as respectable as are anywhere to be found in their sphere of life. And whatever asperity may have resulted elsewhere from discussions upon Establishments, now so rife, such discussions here have neither interrupted nor embittered the intercourse of social life. Mr Carmichael is allowed L. 100 a-year, and has a house and garden. Mr Dobbie, with similar advantages, has L. 125. Both congregations are in the habit of giving from their funds to relieve the necessities of the poor who belong to them. Since Mr Smith's induction, he has been

in the habit of taking an ecclesiastical census annually when engaged in parochial visitation, with the view of ascertaining accurately the different denominations of professing Christians to which the inhabitants belong. In 1834, the number of families where the heads belonged to the Relief was 79, and contained 347 souls; the number of those belonging to the Reformed Presbytery, 48, containing 235 souls; of the Secession, 21, containing 109; and all the rest, including those who can scarcely be considered as attached to any religious denomination whatever, 110, attached, nominally at least, to the establishment, and containing 570 souls. From a statement inserted in the parochial register about thirty-four years ago by Mr Hewetson, then schoolmaster of the parish, it appears that, so early as 1766, there were 16 families that had separated from the Established Church, and in 1796 upwards of 60. About the end of the century, it is said that this number considerably increased. The same authority, of date 1802, states, that, "the people in general have been of a religious cast of mind, being addicted to Puritan principles. But of late, from the great influence of itinerant preachers, they are more and more divided in their religious principles; and being split into four considerable factions, there is a foundation laid for religious squabbles and polemical controversy, which do not tend to the progress of true and genuine religion."

The parochial stipend amounts to 16 chalders, half meal half barley, which in 1834 yielded L. 209; in 1835, L. 210. The manse underwent a thorough repair, and had a large addition made to it in 1833, at an expense, including a new steading of offices, of nearly L. 1100; and whatever may be thought of its appearance, there are few more convenient or more comfortable manses in Scotland. It is situated about 100 yards from the church, the garden intervening. Both church and manse are about a similar distance from the Scarr, and stand on a level ground near a sloping bank, about forty-five feet above its level. From the situation of the manse, it was found impossible to supply water from within the glebe, and there seemed to be no other mode of obviating this great inconvenience, but by leading it in pipes from the high land behind. To this plan, however, the proprietor of the land was averse; and in consequence, water had to be brought from another spring, at a distance of about 1000 yards from the manse. The expense of this work, amounting to about L. 130, the Duke of Buccleuch defrayed individually; and it is not saying too much to add, that, in the pe-

culiar circumstances of the case, perhaps no other heritor in Scotland would have acted with the like generosity. The glebe extends to 13 acres—and in improving it and making a new garden, the minister has expended nearly L. 300. The heritors have erected a garden wall at an expense of about L. 100. Perhaps it may be added, that in a few years Penpont manse will be as delightfully situated as any in Scotland.

*Education.*—There are four schools in the parish, two of them parochial and of course endowed; the third, private, as such schools are termed, and unendowed; and the fourth exclusively appropriated to females. They are all respectably taught. In one of the parochial schools, Greek and French are superadded to the ordinary branches. The salary of the *offe* parochial schoolmaster is L. 29, 6s. 6½d., the other has L. 22. The one draws about L. 16, the other about L. 9 in school fees. One of them has a house and a small garden; the other has only a house, and that of as comfortless a description as can well be imagined. The expense of education per month may be considered as ranging from 8d. to 10d. and 1s. It is not believed that there are any persons in the parish between six and fifteen years of age who cannot read; and if there be any, they are not more than one or two above fifteen years of age, in this unhappy predicament. One of the parochial schools is about five miles from the church, and on the whole is judiciously set down, for the district. Of course, there may be eight or ten farms with their cot-houses adjoining, that cannot be said to have the benefit of parochial school economy. But the evil is partly remedied, as in the Highlands, by itinerating teachers; partly by intelligent parents themselves.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—There are 18 individuals, who singly, or as representing others, receive parochial aid. The expenditure for the year ending August 1835 was L. 59, 8s., so that the average sum may be stated as 5s. 6d. per month. This, however, is not an exact average, as the number of children, and other modifying circumstances, cannot be minutely detailed. There are two sums, the one of L. 200, the other of L. 150, mortified for the benefit of the poor, the capital of which, it is understood, cannot be encroached upon. The yearly collections average L. 16 per annum. The sums allowed to paupers here will seem large in comparison with those in other parts of the country,—a circumstance which may be partially explained by the fact, that coal cannot be procured for less than from 7d. to 8d. per cwt. The aver-

sion to receive parochial aid, at one time so beautifully characteristic of the independent and honourable character of the Scottish people, is, unhappily for the morals of the community, gradually diminishing. Individuals may yet be found who cannot brook the disgrace, as they consider it, of receiving parochial aid in regard to themselves. But this fine spirit is nearly extinct amongst those even from whom better things might have been expected, in regard to their collateral descendants.

Within the last two or three years, three hiring markets have been held annually, on the third Tuesday of March for the summer half year; on the third Tuesday of June, for hay-making and harvest work; and on the third Tuesday of October, for hiring for the winter half year.

*February 1836.*

---

## PARISH OF ANNAN.

PRESBYTERY OF ANNAN, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.

THE REV. JAMES MONILAWS, MINISTER.

---

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name, Boundaries, Extent, &c.*—THE parish and town of Annan derive their name from that of the river by which the former is intersected, and on the east bank of which the latter is commodiously situated, about a mile and a-half above its influx into the Solway Frith. The etymology is dubious. *Annan* (Amhann,) however, in the Gaelic signifies *weak* or *slow-running* (water,)—an appellation even now descriptive of a considerable part of its course, which has a fall of little more than a foot in the mile; but, at a distant period, when, as is generally supposed, it had flowed past Dalton and Denbie, emptying itself into the Frith at Powfoot, before making its way through the rock at Dormont, the appellation must have been still more appropriate, in as much as this tract, in which it is supposed to have formerly flowed, is nearly a dead level.\*

\* Professor Jameson, in his Mineralogical Description of Dumfries-shire, says "The valley of the Annan was probably at a former period a hollow in the transition rocks, in which a river vastly greater than the present flowed, but which, by the deposition of floetz-trap rocks across its communication with the ocean, was converted into an inland sea or lake." There are certain facts which render the latter part



The parish is extremely irregular in shape. It extends upwards of 3 miles along the north shore of the Solway Frith; whence, to its most northern boundary, being the extreme length, it is 8 miles. In breadth it varies from about 4 to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles. It is bounded on the north by the parishes of Hoddam and Middlebie; on the north-east, by Kirkpatrick-Fleming; on the east, by Dornock; on the south, by the Solway Frith; and on the west, by Cummertrees. Within the boundaries thus described, there is contained an area of  $17\frac{1}{2}$  square miles, or 11,100 imperial acres.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The surface of the parish is comparatively flat, having a gentle inclination towards the south. Three parallel ridges of moderate height run through it in a north-east and south-west direction. Between the middle and western ridges, the Annan wends its way through scenery highly beautiful and picturesque. At the north termination of the western ridge, is situated the obtuse conical hill of Woodcock-air,\* rising to an elevation of about 320 feet above the level of the sea. Above the same level, Annan hill, close upon the shore of the Frith, is 256 feet. Barnkirk hill, apparently about 120 feet above the level of the tide which washes its base, seems to have been the south-east termination of a range of little eminences, from thence extending into the parish of Tinwald; but which, along the coast, has, with the exception of the one mentioned, probably through the operation of the waters of the frith, which at one time rose to a much greater height than they do at present, so far disappeared, that now its lineaments can little more than be traced.

With the exception of the two last-mentioned hills, neither of which would be entitled to be so named, did they not possess a somewhat prominent appearance from the levelness of the adjacent country, the coast is flat and uninteresting. To the west of the Annan, the shore is gravelly, to the east, one part is wholly sandy, while the other consists of a mixture of sand and gravel. The

of this supposition highly probable. In the parish of Kirkmichael, there are at a short distance from the Annan, a *Ross*, signifying in the Gaelic a *promontory*; and a *Cumrue* or *Cumrue*, signifying in the same tongue, the *crooked promontory*,—terms never applied to places except when bordering on a *sea* or *lake*. There is, moreover, laid down in Ptolemy's map of this country, a *lake* answering to the course of the Annan, and adjoining the position of the places alluded to; from which facts it would appear, that the situations of *Ross* and *Cumrue* must at one time have been appropriately designated by the names which they continue to bear.

\* This hill, the property of Lieut.-General Sharpe of Hoddam, is completely covered with wood, and was formerly a part of a forest of the same name, of which Edward III., in 1334, appointed John de la Forest the bailiff. This office was heritably enjoyed by the Maxwell family in the reign of James VI.—*Inquisit. Special.* 20.

subsoil is clayey. The only frequented harbour is Annan Water-foot, which is completely sheltered from the winds of the west and south-west by Barnkirk hill.

*Meteorology.*—The temperature of the atmosphere is in general remarkably mild. In winter, the mercury on Fahrenheit's scale seldom falls below 35°, while commonly it is not observed so low by some degrees. In summer the mean heat ranges between 55° and 65°. Last summer the mercury, in the shade, rose so high as 80°.

The following table exhibits the average direction of the winds for three years previous to November 1834 :

Months.	No. of Days.							
	N.	N. E.	E.	S. E.	S.	S. W.	W.	N. W.
November,	1	4	0	4	1	10	2	8
December,	0	0	0	5	2	16	2	6
January, .	0	9	1	11	1	7	0	2
February, .	0	2	1	6	0	13	2	4
March, .	0	2	1	7	1	6	7	7
April, . .	0	2	6	13	1	3	0	5
May, . . .	1	5	2	5	0	11	3	4
June, . . .	0	3	0	2	0	12	2	11
July, . . .	0	4	3	5	1	13	3	2
August, .	0	3	0	1	2	15	6	4
September,	0	3	0	5	2	14	4	2
October,	2	2	0	3	2	11	6	5
Total,	4	39	14	67	13	131	37	60

The following table exhibits the average state of the weather during the eight years previous to September 1834 :

Months.	Fair.	No. of Days.			
		Showery.	Wet throughout.	Freezing.	Snowing.
September,	11	17	2	0	0
October,	20	9	2	0	0
November,	18	7	3	2	0
December,	12	9	3	6	1
January,	14	5	2	9	1
February,	17	7	1	2	1
March, .	20	7	2	1	1
April, .	20	9	1	0	0
May, .	24	6	1	0	0
June, .	22	7	1	0	0
July, .	21	10	0	0	0
August, .	16	14	1	0	0
Total,	215	107	19	20	4

Although the rain which falls here is considerable, the climate is remarkable for its salubrity.

*Hydrography.*—Rolling over a vast tract of sand and sand-banks, which, during the absence of the tide are exposed, the water of the Solway Frith possesses naturally in summer a higher, and in winter a lower degree of temperature than the water of the ocean; and from the amazing rapidity with which it flows, it loses much of the

clearness and purity which it possesses when issuing from the Irish sea. The colour to which, perhaps, it most nearly approaches, is Roman ochre. In ordinary tides, the depths of water in the channel is about thirty feet, which gradually shallows to the shore.

Spring water, purer or in greater abundance, is nowhere to be found than in the town and throughout the greater part of the parish. To this circumstance may in some degree be attributed the absence of prevalent diseases among the inhabitants. Chalybeates abound, one of which, near the port, being a combination of alum and iron, somewhat similar to Hartfell Spa, at Moffat, has, with much benefit, been made use of by those labouring under chronic complaints of the stomach. A very strong mineral spring was, in July last, discovered near Battlehill.\* It has not yet been analyzed. Hundreds of individuals daily resorted to it during the autumn; and from the wonderful cures said to have been effected by means of its water, its fame has already spread considerably beyond the bounds of Annandale. Should it continue to retain its present reputation, it would be of great importance to the place, because, being only a few hundred yards from the shore, there would be combined the advantages of a sea-bathing and a watering-place.

*Geology.*—The rocks in this parish, and indeed those throughout the whole of the lower part of Annandale, belong to the independent coal formation. The secondary sandstone which pervades the parish, lies immediately under the soil, which in depth varies from a few to a considerable number of feet. The general stretch of the strata is from east to west, the depth of which varies from a few inches to several feet. The general inclination is towards the south; and the dip eight inches and a-half in the foot. In texture, the rock is considerably fine,—weighing eleven imperial stones per cubic foot,—and well adapted for architectural purposes. Sometimes it contains mica in such quantity, that without difficulty it can be raised in thin sections, or flags, which are occasionally used instead of slate for the covering of houses. In the upper part of the parish, it occurs loosely aggregated, and easily friable. It assumes a variety of colours, such as reddish-brown, brick red, white, steel-gray, and yellow. Sometimes it is interspersed with spots of a mountain-green colour. Considerable fragments of

\* So named on account of a severe engagement which here took place during the border forays, between the Scots and the English, in which the latter were wholly discomfited; their forces to a man, being either put to the sword, or in attempting to escape, drowned in the frith.

quartz occasionally occur in it; and not unfrequently the surface of the uppermost stratum is found so completely imbedded with small fragments of flint, as effectually to resist the impression of the best tempered tool. In the north part of the parish, a large body of limestone is exposed. "It is covered by and alternates with sandstone. Beds of ironstone sometimes accompany the outer strata, and bituminous shale, with small seams of coal, sometimes make their appearance either in the limestone quarries, or near to where the secondary strata terminate on the primary rock." Between the strata, which are from six inches to three feet thick, range from east to west and dip to the south, there are thin seams of clay of various colours. In the rock, there is found a variety of petrifications, of which the species most frequently occurring are the milleporites and the ammonites.

All geologists who have surveyed the district are of opinion that abundance of coal may here be obtained, though at a very considerable depth,—the bed of sandstone rock lying above it being extremely thick. Workable coal abounds on the opposite side of the frith, on both sides of which the superincumbent sandstone belongs to the same formation. Several attempts have here been made to obtain this important material, but without success; the obvious reason of which, however, seems to be, that the depth of bore, considering the thickness of the superincumbent rock, has been greatly short of that which would render success at all probable. On the other side of the frith, the depth of descent before workable coal is obtained, is in some places 108 fathoms, while here the greatest depth reached has not exceeded 150 feet.

Almost every variety of soil is to be met with in the parish, and that sometimes within a small compass. The lower ground along the banks of the river consists of alluvial depositions, and is very rich. To the west of the river, for a short way above its influx into the frith, the soil is clayey, having a substratum of strongly adhesive bluish clay, and loamy with a gravelly subsoil. Northwards, on the same side of the river, it is mostly light and moorish. On the east side of the river, and to the south of the town, it is mostly loamy, with a sandy or gravelly bottom; to the north of the town, it is generally light, the subsoil being a hard till; to the north-east, east, and south-east of the town, it is almost wholly moorish and mossy, over the greater part of which a rough white stone prevails, a well-known indication of a naturally

poor and barren soil, though not incapable of improvement and culture.

A few boulders of sienite, of considerable size, occur in different parts of the parish. The nearest rocks of the same kind are those of Skiddaw in Cumberland, and Criffel in Galloway, from either or both of which localities, they may have been conveyed to their present positions, by the irresistible force of the diluvial waters.

*Zoology.*—The salmon, \* the grilse, and the trout, † frequent the frith and river. In the frith, the sparring, the cod, the had-dock, and the sturgeon, the turbot, the sole, and the skate, occasionally make their appearance. The herling at one time frequented the frith in great numbers, but of late years has almost wholly deserted it. The salmon fry ‡ migrate to the sea, from the middle of April to the middle of May. The herling ascends the river from the beginning of July, till toward the end of August, and returns to the sea the following spring. The sea-trout commences running so early as April, becomes most plentiful in June, and descends the river in spring. The migrations of the grilse correspond exactly with those of the herling. The salmon continues to run from September till on towards Christmas, and returns to the sea in spring,—having completely deserted the river by the end of April.

*Botany.*—There are but few, if any, very rare plants in the parish, which, however, is no bad field for the young botanist. The earliest harbingers of spring along the banks of the river are the coltsfoot (*Tussilago farfara*,) and the common butter-bur (*Tussilago petasites*,) the former of which abounds also in the fields. Next to these in succession, come the wood-sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*,) the primrose (*Primula veris*,) the dog's-violet (*Viola canina*,) the wild hyacinth or harebell (*Hyacinthus non scriptus*,)

\* A species of the salmon, here named the *spring salmon*, weighing from five to eight pounds, and in which there is found neither milt nor roe, enters the river in the beginning of January, and there remains only a very short time. It is remarkably rich, and is sold at from 2s. to 3s. per lb.

† A species of the trout, called the bull-trout, has here been taken at the weight of 30 lbs., and has sometimes been palmed upon the market for salmon, from which, however, it is easily distinguished by the rounded shape and larger size of the head, besides cutting white.

‡ The yellow-fin, here so named from the colour of its fins, weighing about a-third of a pound, and supposed to belong to the salt water, but respecting which extremely little is here known, visits the lower part of the river from the middle of April till towards the end of May, for the purpose, as is conjectured, of conducting the red fry to the sea. When the fry in a body are leaving the river, the yellow-fin is observed preceding them at a very short distance, or mingled with the foremost. It is never seen more than three or four miles up the river, in which it is not taken or observed, except during the period alluded to.

the wood anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*,) which adorns the woodlands on the banks of the Annan, in considerable profusion. Then, also, the rather uncommon *Adoxa moschatellina* is met with.

In summer, besides the common plants, such as the purple foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*,) the meadow-sweet (*Spiraea ulmaria*,) and the great wild valerian (*Valeriana officinalis*,) which, in profusion, ornament the sides of the river, the rivulets, and the moist ditches,—there are to be seen among some of the hedges, in the immediate vicinity of the town, the elegant blossoms of the woody nightshade or bitter-sweet (*Solanum dulcamara*,) and the beautiful white blossoms of the great bind-weed (*Convolvulus sepium*.) In the ditches, the ivy-leaved crowfoot (*Ranunculus hederaceus*,) and the great spear-wort (*Ranunculus lingua*,) frequently occur. Along the banks of the river and the lesser streams, the water figwort (*Scrophularia aquatica*) is often met with. In the wood of Galabank, the showy-spreading bell-flower (*Campanula latifolia*) abounds, a few plants of which are also to be found in the wood of Craigdale. The Flora of the parish abounds with species of the St John's-wort (*Hypericum*.) The mountain-speedwell is plentiful in the woods of Dalebank.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Historical Events.*—From the absence of historical documents, it is impossible to ascertain at what period the town of Annan was founded. In the Old Statistical Account, it is stated that “Annan was probably a Roman station,—that it appears to have been occupied by the Britons of the west, till they were subdued by the Anglo-Saxons of Northumberland,—and that, upon the overthrow of that kingdom, it fell into the possession of the Scots, and was, from the reign of Malcolm Canmore down to that of William the Lion, reckoned one of the principal border ports.” The statement which has been so often published, and the opinion which generally prevails, that Annan was constituted a royal burgh shortly after the accession of Bruce to the throne, appear to be founded merely on conjecture. During the many transfers of the lordship of Annandale which took place after that event, it cannot be inferred, in any case, that Annan was regarded as a royal burgh. Besides, in a new charter (the former one having been destroyed in the time of war,) which was obtained from James VI. renewing and confirming to the town its former privileges and immunities, it is distinctly mentioned, that, induced by the great privations to which the inhabitants had been subjected in protecting and defending the li-

berties of the Scottish border, James V. did, in 1538, erect the town of Annan into a free and royal burgh.

From its vicinity to the English border, Annan was frequently plundered, burnt, and its inhabitants put to the sword, during the succession wars and the vexatious border forays. In the troublous year of 1298, when waste seems to have been the great object of war, the town and church were burnt by the English invaders. Two years after this, a castle was either built or repaired by Robert Bruce, for the defence of the town, which he occasionally made his place of residence. To this castle it was, that Edward Baliol, in 1332, shortly after being crowned at Scone, had summoned the Scottish nobility of the west, to do him homage; when Archibald Douglas collected at Moffat a body of 1000 horse, marched to Annan during the night, defeated and slew his guards, his brother Henry, and many more of those opposed to the interest of Bruce. Baliol, in the utmost alarm, and while half-naked, mounted a horse without saddle or bridle, and fled to Carlisle. There, he was kindly received by Lord Dacre, whose estates suffered severely for the reception given to the fugitive; for Douglas immediately collecting an army of 3000 men, entered Cumberland, and ravaged and plundered a considerable part of the county, but particularly that belonging to Lord Dacre. In 1547, Wharton, accompanied by the forfeited Lennox, during the protectorship of Somerset, made an inroad into Dumfries-shire, and in his way through the county, plundered and burned the town, after having met with an obstinate resistance from the inhabitants, who having fortified the church, (the castle having been previously demolished,) baffled for a while the attempts of the assailants to overpower them. "The church of Annan," says Patten, the journalist of the incursion, "was a strong place, and very noisome to our men as they passed that way."

In 1548 and 1549, the town and district continued to be harassed by the predatory incursions of the English borderers. The Governor Maxwell, therefore, ordered a tax of L. 4000 to be levied on the prelates and clergy, for repairing the castle for the defence of the place against the oppressive aggressions of their "auld enemies of England." A treaty of peace was, soon after, concluded between the two kingdoms, yet the cessation of the barbarous system of predatory aggression was of short continuance; and on the arrival of 6000 French soldiers from Gascony in the Clyde, the Queen-Regent found it necessary to dis-

patch the greater part of them to Annan, to aid in the defence of the town, and the neighbouring district. In 1570 the castle was again demolished by an English army under the Earl of Sussex. It was afterwards rebuilt, and continued to be a border fortification, till the union of the crowns. At that time, the inhabitants were reduced to a state of very great destitution, and in a grant obtained from James VI. in 1609, it is stated, that owing to their being "so miserably impoverished" as to be unable to build a church, the castle was granted them for a place of worship.

During the civil wars in the reign of Charles I., Annan suffered still more, and, as some compensation for the privations to which it had been subjected, the Restoration Parliament granted it the privilege of collecting customs and other aids.

Nothing worthy of note seems to have occurred at Annan, from this period down to that of 1745, when the rebel forces, retreating before the Duke of Cumberland's army, lay encamped there during the night of the 20th December, after several hundreds of their number had been swept away by the current, when attempting to cross the rivers Eden and Esk.

*Eminent Men.*—Dr Thomas Blacklock, a poet and a divine, was born at Annan in 1721. Though totally deprived of sight by the small-pox when a child, he was not deterred from prosecuting his studies for the church, which he commenced at the age of twenty, and continued to pursue for ten years at the University of Edinburgh. His acquirements in the Latin, Greek, and French languages were very considerable,—his knowledge of the sciences intimate,—and his attainments in poetry remarkable, considering the disadvantages under which he laboured. A volume of poetry, and several theological productions composed by him, are printed. As a particular instance of his discernment, may be mentioned the circumstance of his having been the first to appreciate the poetical merits of Robert Burns.

Here was brought up and educated the celebrated African traveller, Hugh Clapperton, whose dust now lies in the land which was the scene of his researches.

Here too was born and brought up the Rev. Edward Irving, whose fate is still more a subject of melancholy regret. Possessed of a heart wedded to his sacred profession, and once of a mind to whose vigour and capacity we presume not to assign a limit, he bade fair for becoming one of the brightest ornaments of our national church. But, alas, "in the midst of his fame, delusion like



a summer cloud, overcame him." He now sleeps with his fathers : and sure we are there must be few, who will hesitate to say,—peace to the manes of Edward Irving.

*Land-owners.*—The principal land-owners in the parish are, Mr Irving of Newbie; Mrs Dirom of Mount-Aunan; Mr Irving of Bonshaw; Mr Carruthers of Warmanbie; the Earl of Mansfield; the Marquis of Queensberry; and General Sharpe of Hoddam. Mr Irving of Newbie possesses the largest rental, which is upwards of L. 2000 per annum. The others are ranged as above, according to the valued rent of their respective properties in the parish. The number of small proprietors is very considerable.

*Parochial Registers.*—The register of baptisms commenced in 1703, that of marriages in 1764, neither of which were regularly kept till about thirty years ago. So imperfectly, indeed, had the register of marriages been kept for upwards of thirty years after its commencement, that the kirk-session, in 1797, found it necessary to resolve and enact, that in time coming it should be duly kept. An obituary has been punctually kept, for upwards of thirty years, by the parish sexton.

*Antiquities.*—On an angled elevation on the east bank of the river, and west side of the town, was situated Annan Castle, the ruins of which, with the exception of a small part of the wall built into the town-house, finally disappeared nearly forty years ago. A stone taken from the ruins, and built into the wall of a small vintage-house in a garden in the town, bears this inscription, "Robert De Brus Counte De Carrick et Senieur De Val De Annand, 1300." Separated from the ancient site of the castle, now forming the old church-yard, by a sort of ravine, there is an artificial mound of considerable extent, designated the *moat*, supposed, like other places of the same name, to have been raised by the Saxons as a spot on which to assemble for the administration of justice. About half a-mile farther up the river, and on the same side, is an elevated bank, on which criminals or captives were executed, called Galabank or Gallow-bank, an evident contraction for Gallows-bank. A deep fosse or ditch, part of which remained open not many years ago, and which can still be easily traced, extended from this spot to Annan moss, skirting the town on the side nearest to the English border. It was undoubtedly cast by the inhabitants of the town, for a means of defence. About two miles from Annan, and a few hundred yards to the north of the Carlisle road, there stood, not many years ago, a rude sort of monument, erected in memory

of the brave Scots who fell in a keenly contested and bloody engagement which there took place, and in which the English were routed with dreadful slaughter. There is a wall adjoining the spot in which the Scotch soldiers washed their swords after the battle, which, with the adjoining grounds, has ever since been designated "*Sword well.*" Among the English of note that then fell, were Sir Marmaduke Longdale, Sir Philip Musgrave, and Lord Howard, who were interred in the neighbouring church-yard of Dornock. A grave-stone, with an inscription which time has rendered incapable of being deciphered, covers the spot where they were laid.

*Modern Buildings.*—On the eastern bank of the river, and nearly two miles from the town, is situated the mansion-house of Mount-Annan, the residence of Mrs Dirom, widow of the late Lieut-General Dirom, who, from the Christian benevolence of his character, the able and varied productions of his pen, and the important improvements connected with agriculture he effected, was extensively known and deservedly esteemed. Placed on an elevated situation, Mount-Annan commands a prospect of the Solway Frith and northern counties of England so extensive and varied as comparatively few residences can boast of. The grounds around the house are tastefully wooded, and the scenery on the banks of the Annan, which it overlooks, highly beautiful and picturesque.

On the same side of the river, and about a quarter of a mile south of Mount Annan, is situated the handsome residence of Warmanbie, the property of A. Carruthers, Esq. This elegant edifice was erected by the present proprietor a few years ago. The grounds have been greatly improved, and are most tastefully laid out.—The situation of Northfield House, the seat of Miss Carruthers, about half a mile nearer the town than Warmanbie, and close upon the east bank of the river, though confined in its prospect, is surpassingly beautiful. The house, which was lately enlarged, is very elegant.—The vicinity of the town is studded here and there with handsome houses and neat cottages, many of which have been erected of late years.

The town itself is well built, and the streets are capacious and generally well paved. The church and town-house are each adorned with a handsome spire. \*

\* Since the above was written, Mrs Dirom of Mount-Annan has, with her usual benevolence, built a neat church at Bridekirk village for the benefit of the inhabitants and those of the adjoining district, who, especially in winter, are placed at an inconvenient distance from the parish church,—not to speak of the decided want of church accommodation there.

## III.—POPULATION.

The population of the parish in 1755 amounted to	1498
At the publication of first Statistical Account, 1797 it amounted to	2570
According to the census for 1801,	2570
Do. do. 1811,	3341
Do. do. 1821,	4486
Do. do. 1831,	5033
Amount of population taken 1836, previous to the separation of the new parish of Brydekirk,	5700
Number of inhabited houses at the date of last census,	831
families employed in agriculture at do.	84
in trade, manufactures, and handicraft,	580
All other families not included above	488
Number of males at the date of last census,	2375
females,	2658

*Character of the People.*—The inhabitants of this burgh and parish are an active, enterprising, and intelligent class of people. The great increase of the population, which has more than doubled within the present century, is a striking proof of their exertions in promoting the trade, manufactures, and rural economy of this portion of the south of Scotland, and the spirit of improvement is now as active, or more so than ever, since the introduction of steam navigation betwixt this port and Liverpool. Building is still going forward with great animation, and is aided by the abundant supply of materials in the immediate vicinity, or by water communication. The modern mansion-houses of the resident gentry, as well as the farm-houses, are now built in a more elegant and commodious form; and the policies or pleasure grounds are equally tasteful and ornamental. Many charming villas or cottages are scattered around the burgh, which are much admired for their elegance and neatness, and the fine prospects which they command. Speculation here, as in many other places, may in a few instances have been pushed too far, or in advance of even the present rapid rate of improvements; but where this has occasionally appeared, the consequences may prove a warning against the like imprudence. From the keenness of competition displayed in this burgh, there are certainly at present too many candidates for public favour in the market, and, as it is observed in other markets where the supply exceeds the demand, the profits must be reduced to the minimum value, or the stockholder sell with a loss. These things will no doubt rectify themselves in the end.

## IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—The number of acres in the parish, as it stood before the separation of Brydekirk, was 11,000 or thereby. Of these nearly 10,000 acres were under cultivation or laid down in permanent pasture, the remainder being occupied with

woods and plantations, moors, and waste ground, &c. A large tract of ground in the vicinity of the burgh to the north-east, and extending at one time to nearly 2000 acres, was formerly a common bleak moor, but was divided about thirty-five years ago among the burghers and adjoining heritors. Before this took place, it afforded only a scanty pasturage for cattle and horses belonging to the burghers, and was greatly impoverished by the practice of cutting feal or divot for the common behoof. It is now divided and subdivided by hedge and ditch, and a considerable portion of the most elevated parts are covered with thriving plantations. The fields are well cultivated and improved, with neat cottages interspersed, built with stone and lime, and roofed or covered with slate. To accommodate these cottages, or small farms, cross roads are formed from the public roads leading from the burgh to Langholm and Cannobie, by Kirtlebridge and Kilpatrick Church. It is calculated that there are now in the parish about 10,087 acres under cultivation, or laid down in permanent pasture. The average of which being taken at from 10s. to L. 4 per acre, may be calculated at L. 1, 14s. 4d., giving nearly L. 17,232, 13s. 8d. in whole. The arable land where not laid down in pasture is kept under a regular course of cropping, according to the most approved practice of the neighbouring parishes.

The kind of stock generally reared here is the common Galloway or polled breed, with occasionally a few of the short-horned and Ayrshire breeds. The number of sheep kept within the parish is small, as there are no ranges of any extent for sheep pastures. The rates charged for grazing of cattle vary from the quality of the pasture, and their proximity to the burgh. The rearing and feeding of hogs is a part of rural economy now universally pursued throughout Annandale by the farmers and cottagers, and has become a source of no small profit to the country, and of ample remuneration to those by whom it has been adopted.

*Manufactures.*—A cotton manufactory for spinning of yarn was established here in the year 1785, and the building and machinery have been considerably enlarged since. The number of persons at present engaged in the work may vary from 120 to 140 hands, and the quantity of manufactured goods produced weekly is 4000 pounds on an average, or upwards of 92 tons weight of mule jenny yarn. The work is carried on by Mr Douglas, from Manchester.

*Fisheries.*—There are two fisheries carried on here, one of them

on the coast on the west side of the Annan, belonging to Mr Irving of Newbie, which is let to a tacksman at present for L. 350 per annum. The other belongs to the burgh, on the coast to the east of the town at Seafeld, on lease at L. 200 a-year. Both these fisheries were very productive, last season affording a good return to the tacksman.

*Trade and Shipping.*—The trade and shipping of the port of Annan, which is formed by a creek of the Solway Frith at the mouth of the river, is mostly engaged in the importation from America and the Baltic, of timber, deals, lathwood, and tar. Four cargoes from America and two from Memel have been imported this year. From the regular communication by steam packets from Liverpool to Annan Waterfoot, the greatest part of the merchant goods are conveyed to this place, and grain, wool, live-stock, bacon, and hams, and other produce of the country, besides passengers, are shipped on board these vessels in return, for the Liverpool market, and the adjacent manufacturing towns in Lancashire. There are at present, thirty-four vessels belonging to Annan in employment. Two of these are engaged in the foreign trade; thirty are employed in the coasting trade of Great Britain and Ireland; and two are pleasure yachts. The whole are registered at 1639 tons burthen.

The imports coastwise here, exclusive of what is carried on by the steam packets, are, coals, slates, salt, iron, herrings, and grain, and sundry other merchant goods from Glasgow, and other ports on the coasts of England and Ireland. The exports coastwise, exclusive of the steamers, are very trifling, with the exception of a few cargoes of grain, shipped for the Liverpool and Glasgow markets, or a few loads of timber and freestone for other ports in England. The navigation of the Solway Frith is attended with considerable danger and difficulty, occasioned by the frequent changes in the course of the channel, from the shifting of the sandbanks, &c. The port of Annan, as stated above, is formed by the creek or inlet to the river, which has been rendered more convenient for the shipping trading in the Solway Frith, by the embankment of a piece of carse ground of considerable extent, called Hallmeadow, a part of the Newbie estate, the property of John Irving, Esq. lying on the north-east side of the river,—whereby the channel is rendered deeper, for bringing up the shipping to good and safe anchorage-ground, and also better protected from the prevailing south-west winds, by a narrow promontory or point of

land, on that side of the river, called Barnkirk hill, which is elevated about 45 feet above the tide at high water mark. The embankment of this field was begun in the year 1819, and finished the following year, at an expense of L. 3000, by the proprietor. It is formed by the soil taken from the inside of the embankment, consisting of sandy loam, and is on an average about 12 feet high, with a slope toward the tideway, of from 5 to 2 feet, to 1 foot in perpendicular height, according to the nature of the exposure to wind and currents. The slope in the inside is more erect. The front, or outward side of the embankment, is covered with green swarded turf, as well as the top, and the land side is sown with natural grass seeds, which have grown most luxuriantly from the richness of the soil. At the lower end or angle of this embankment, which runs across from the port or place where the shipping anchor, to the bottom of a hill or rising ground to the eastward, there have been erected two jetties, measuring 140 yards in length, for conveying passengers, goods, and live-stock to the steamers, plying between Liverpool, Annan, Waterfoot, and Port Carlisle. The jetties were erected a few years ago by the owners of the steam-vessels whose register of tonnage are, the Solway, 192, City of Carlisle, 300, Newcastle, 396, and Victoria, 450, in all 1338 tons burthen. Here, they call regularly on their passage to and from Liverpool, to take in cattle, sheep, horses, grain, merchant goods and passengers, once a week during winter, and oftener in summer, and make the passage, a distance of 120 miles, in twelve hours, or one tide. From the burgh to the jetties, about four years ago, an excellent road was formed, being forty feet in breadth, through the centre of the field, for the convenience of the public. It was made by a public subscription, and cost L. 640. A commodious inn, with stabling attached, has been erected near the jetties, within the embankment, several feet below high water-mark. The intercourse along this road is kept up by a public coach from Dumfries to Annan, on every day the steamers arrive, and by private carriages of all descriptions, conveying passengers, merchant goods, and the stock of all kinds to and from the burgh, as they arrive for the purpose of transportation. The embankment and road were planned by, and executed under the superintendance of, Mr G. D. Roume, land-surveyor and civil engineer in this parish.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Bridges.*—As this burgh has now become a general thorough-

fare, by the public road conveying the mail coach from Portpatrick and Dumfries to the south by Carlisle, as well as the great transfer of live-stock from the west of Scotland and Ireland, whereby the public tolls levied there have become of considerable importance to the burghers,—it was judged expedient to rebuild the bridge over the river, which was first rebuilt in the year 1720. This bridge, for a long time past, had been considered dangerous to pass, and incommodious from the narrowness of its roadway. Accordingly, in the year 1824, a new bridge was erected on the site of the old one, a wooden temporary one having been thrown across the river about a hundred yards above the old one. This new bridge is 27 feet 6 inches in breadth betwixt the parapet walls, and has a neat flagged foot-path of hewn stone, 3 feet 9 inches broad on each side, and the middle roadway is 20 feet broad. It has three arches of 65 feet in span, each forming the segment of a large circle, with a rise of 13 feet 6 inches, from the level of the spring of the arches,—the roadway of the middle arch being 27 feet above summer water level, having a fall from the main street, at the eastern end of the bridge, and across Lord Queensberry's Holm, on the west side of the river, of one foot in thirty. The materials for building the bridge, consisting of red sandstone of excellent quality, were dug from Gallowbank quarry, nearly a mile farther up the river, and floated down on the stream on a barge or punt, constructed for the purpose. The expense of lowering the street at the west end next the bridge, of erecting the bridge and forming the embankment across the valley on the west side, &c. amounted to about L. 8000. It was built from a plan of the work furnished by Robert Stevenson, Esq. civil-engineer, and executed by John Laurie, bridge contractor, Dalkeith, to both of which gentlemen the work does great credit, as there is not a more handsome and substantial piece of work of the kind in the kingdom. The temporary wooden bridge was taken down when the new stone one was finished. The cost of this last structure was L. 500.

*Roads.*—The parish is intersected by the public mail-coach road, from Dumfries to Carlisle, which is kept in excellent repair, besides two public roads to the north and eastward, towards Edinburgh by Langholm, one of these passing by Kirtlebridge, which is very near the outskirts of the parish to the northward, and the other by Stapleton, by Kilpatrick church, and Chapelknow, till it joins with the Edinburgh and Carlisle mail coach road along the Esk in Cannobie. Another public road leaves the first men-

tioned road to Langholm near Mount Annan, and from thence to Ecclefechan, where it joins the Carlisle and Glasgow mail-coach road; there is a fourth public road from Annan by the bridge, and along the west side of the river to Brydekirk village, where it crosses the Annan by a substantial stone bridge of three arches. Upon all these roads, toll-bars have been erected, from the rents of which, and public assessments, they are kept in proper repair.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church of Annan was built in 1790. It is a handsome structure, and surmounted with an elegant steeple and clock. It is commodious, neatly seated, with galleries on three sides, and well lighted, having four spacious windows in front, and smaller ones on each end. It does not, at present, afford sufficient accommodation for the whole congregation, containing only 1190 sittings, the population of the parish when it was built consisting of only 2300, whereas the population of the burgh alone contains more inhabitants than the whole of the parish, at the period when the church was erected; and in consequence of the allotment of seats to the landed proprietors, and their tenants and retainers, as well as the ancient burgh proprietors, a want of accommodation has been felt by the more recent settlers in the burgh. There are two Dissenting meeting-houses in the town, both of which have been recently built. One of them belongs to the Associate Synod, and the other to the Relief Church. They are both very handsome buildings, commodious, and well attended by their respective hearers. The former of these has been long established in the burgh, but the congregation of the latter has only been formed within a few years past. There is also a preacher of the Independent persuasion, but it is understood he has not yet got any suitable chapel fitted up.

The manse of the present incumbent of the Established Church is commodious and in good repair. The glebe land belonging to the cure, properly speaking, consists of 10 acres of good land around the manse. Besides this, the minister had formerly a right of foggage, feal, and divot, on Annan common; but, when the division took place, in lieu of his right,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  acres of moor ground were allotted to him, which at present let at the yearly rent of L. 2, 10s. From this, however, falls to be deducted an annual feu-duty to the burgh as superior, of L. 1, 13s. 6d., leaving to him from this source 16s. 6d. yearly. The present stipend is 19 chalders of victual, half meal and half barley. It is variable in yearly value, being regulated by the county fiars prices of meal



and barley. There is, besides, L. 10 allowed for communion elements, the whole derived from the teinds of the parish. The average number of communicants belonging to the Established Church is 530. It is understood that there is not an individual, a native of the parish, and of sound mind, above fifteen years of age, who cannot read. Education is, indeed, so much prized by all, that there are few of the children of the place who have not been taught (besides reading) writing and the elementary rules of arithmetic. It may be remarked, however, that of late a number of Irish families have become settlers here. The parents (generally Roman Catholics) are found to be grossly ignorant, and pay no attention to the education of their children. At present, there are about 150 persons, old and young, of this description in the parish, the greater proportion of whom are unable to read.

*Education.*—There is one parish schoolmaster in the burgh, whose yearly salary is L. 31, 16s. 6d., with an additional allowance for a house and garden. The average number of scholars attending the parish school is from 80 to 90. There is another branch school belonging to the parish at Breconbeds, near Kirtlebridge. The schoolmaster's salary is L. 10 yearly, and the average number of scholars from 60 to 70.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The fund from which the poor of the burgh and parish of Annan are supplied, is raised by an assessment on the real rental of property in the burgh and parish, the proprietors contributing one-half, and the tenants the other, the rates and allowances being settled twice a year, at Lammas and Candlemas. The collectors and treasurers of the poor cess money, are appointed by the heritors, magistrates, and kirk-session of Annan. The number of paupers at present on the roll is 121, who are paid weekly every Saturday forenoon, receiving from 1s. to 2s. 6d., or higher, according to circumstances. There is a small bequest yearly from the estate of Gullielands of L. 5. The poor are paid more liberally here than in any other of the neighbouring parishes; but, the more they get, the more they would have. The amount of the money paid for the last half-year was L. 295, 8s. 6d.

*Burgh, Civil Constitution, and Education continued.*—The subsisting charter of this burgh was granted by King James VI. on 10th July 1612. It recites, that this town had been erected into a burgh by King James V. in 1538. The population of Annan has been more than doubled during the present century. From a

statement furnished by the town-clerk, the revenue of the burgh may be stated at L. 650, arising from customs, feus, rents, &c. and is expended in

Municipal salaries, (including burgh officers salaries,)	L. 80	0	0
Lighting and cleaning the streets,	95	0	0
Teachers' salaries,	76	0	0
Poor's rates, &c.	25	0	0
Interest on debt,	168	0	0
Various other charges,	206	0	0
	<hr/>		
	L. 650	0	0

The town is governed by twenty-one councillors, who select from among themselves a Provost, and three Bailies, and other office-bearers, by whom the police of the burgh is administered at the expense of the *common gude* or burgh revenue, there being no assessment for any purpose imposed by the magistrates or council. The parliamentary and municipal constituency, as adjusted by the sheriff of Dumfries-shire on the 17th of August 1837, was 179, and the constituency of the landward part of the parish at 70 or 80. From time immemorial, the heritors of Annan, both burghal and landward, and their tenants, had possessed the right of pasturage and cutting turf on 1650 acres (Scotch measure) of indifferent commonly lying to the north of the town. As this land was, under such management, very unproductive, it was in the year 1802 divided among those interested; burdened, however, with an annual payment of L. 200 to the magistrates for behoof of the community,—which sum was, at the suggestion of Mrs Graham, the amiable and accomplished wife of the author of the Sabbath, appropriated to secure L. 1000 to be expended in building, and L. 65 annually in endowing, an academy for the public benefit. The annual income of the institution is now L. 113, exclusive of wages. The average number of scholars for the last ten years has been 141. This is an excellent institution, and has proved highly beneficial to the burgh, the parish, and the surrounding district. An Infant School has also been lately established in the burgh. The school-house was built in 1834 by subscription. The teacher, Miss Williamson, receives a salary of L. 30 per annum, which sum is paid partly from small weekly charges on the children, and partly by subscription. The number of pupils in regular attendance, from three to six years of age, is averaged at 85. Its beneficial effects are now fully acknowledged and duly appreciated by the public.

In the former management of the burgh concerns, it appears

that alienations of the burgh property had taken place to the amount of more than L. 6000 ; but as the proceeds of these alienations have been laid out in works most beneficial to the public interest, it is obvious that the community have reaped the full advantage of such alienation. But the debts still remaining a public burden on the community, amounting to upwards of L. 4000, are of a nature more detrimental to the public benefit. From the Report of the Commissioners on Municipal Corporations of Scotland, it appears, that the taxations in this burgh are peculiarly light, with the exception of the assessment for the poor. In fact, no taxes of any description are levied by the magistrates except poor money. There are no incorporated trades with exclusive privileges in Annan, and no qualification has been enforced to entitle any one to manufacture or trade within the bounds of the burgh. The magistrates issue burgess tickets both to ordinary and honorary burgesses, but they exact no fees of entry except the stamp of the tickets.

#### ADDENDA. \*

*Brydekirk.*—The church at Brydekirk was at first designed as a missionary station, comprehending a detached part of the parish of Annan, situated about three miles from the burgh on the west side of the river. It was built entirely at the expense of Mrs Dirom of Mount Annan and her friends, in the year 1835, and appointed an established district parish church by the General Assembly in the year 1836 ; and on the 17th of August following, the Rev. H. Macbryde Brown was ordained first minister. The church is a neat and commodious structure, situated at the west or upper end of the village of the same name. It is seated to contain 370 sitters, including benches for children in the area. The extent of the parish may amount to nearly two square miles on both sides of the river, comprehending a part of the adjoining parish of Hoddam, which is annexed to it. The principal heritors are, Mrs Dirom of Mount Annan, the Earl of Mansfield, General Sharpe of Hoddam, and Mr Irving of Bonsbaw. The population of the village of Brydekirk, with the adjacent houses, may amount to about 400. This number, which forms a part of the 770 deducted from the congregation of Annan, with the additional number supplied from the parish of Hoddam, with recent settlers in the village, will now

\* See page 526.

make the whole population of the parish about 1000. Last summer, a neat and commodious dwelling-house was erected in the village for the minister, but is scarcely yet finished.

The stipend or income of the present minister is derived from the seat rents, or voluntary pecuniary aid of the benevolent proprietor of Mount Annan or Brydekirk estates, within which the greatest part of the parish is placed; but it is to be hoped, that, ere long, his station and labours in the church will be rewarded according to his merits. The church is well attended by a devout and serious congregation, much attached to their minister. The poor-rates and other parochial affairs are conducted on much the same principles as those adopted in the landward parts of the parish of Annan.

The schoolmaster, very recently appointed to the situation, has not yet been accommodated with any school-house properly fitted up, nor dwelling-house. His salary consists of L. 10 yearly, being a commutation of a victual stipend, assigned, while the school formed a branch school of the parish of Annan in 1828. The number of scholars attending the school here may vary from 60 to 80 in summer and winter. There is likewise an infant school established here, and a school for teaching girls reading and sewing, both taught by females. A Sabbath evening school has also been established by the minister of the parish, which is now attended by 100 young people.

There is a corn mill in the village, constructed on the best principles, for grinding corn and dressing flour. A substantial stone bridge, consisting of three arches, was thrown over the Annan, here, upwards of twenty years ago, at a very considerable expense to the public. At the east end of the bridge a large building was erected for the manufacturing of wool, much about the same period when the bridge was built, and to which, machinery for sawing timber has been attached. The intersecting roads here are kept in good repair.

*December 1837.*

## UNITED PARISHES OF HUTTON AND CORRIE.

PRESBYTERY OF LOCHMABEN, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.

THE REV. JACOB WRIGHT, MINISTER.

### L.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—It is observed in Hutchinson's History of the County of Cumberland, that the name Hutton, which is the name of a parish also in that county, is probably derived from the principal village being originally a *town of huts*. It appears not improbable that this parish derived its name from the same circumstance; and it strengthens this supposition, that there is a farm near the church of the name of Newton, where the principal inn of the parish has been long kept. It is natural to suppose that Newton was so called on its erection, in contradistinction to the old fragile tenements formerly on the spot. The rivulet Corrie gives name to the other part of the parish. The word is Gaelic, signifying a *narrow glen*. The rivulet accordingly issues from a glen, where this parish joins Eskdalemuir. Dryfe, another rivulet, which rises in the upper part of the Hutton division of the parish, and flows through it for six or seven miles, derives its name from its fury during floods, and *driving* all before it. In rainy seasons it is frequently shifting its bed, disfiguring fields, and destroying ferries and mill-dams.

*Extent, Boundaries.*—The united parishes extend from N. W. to S. E. about twelve miles in length. The breadth is unequal, but may average three miles. They are bounded on the N. E. by the ridge of hills and waterfall which divides Annandale from Eskdale; on the S. E. by the water of Milk, which separates the parish of Corrie from Tundergarth; and on the N. and W. by the parishes of Wamphray, Applegarth, and Dryfesdale.

*Topographical Appearances, &c.*—The view is very different from different positions. Within sight of the rivulet Dryfe, till near its source, the hills are of a fine verdure, and the banks much covered with wood. In sight of the Milk, the view is less hilly, less

woody, and less rocky. In sight of Corrie, there is a large extent of rich pasture and meadow. On the heights between these waters the scene is mossy and bleak; but not barren.

### II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Antiquities.*—Besides the remains of British forts specified in the former Account, there is nothing in the parish, under this head, that claims notice.

*Parochial Registers.*—The parish register was very imperfectly kept previously to 1799, when the present incumbent succeeded. It contains a list of baptisms from 1745 to 1772; a list of marriages from 1746 to 1771; and a list of testimonials from 1746 to 1769.

*Land-owners.*—These, in the order of their valuations, are as follows: J. J. Hope Johnstone of Annandale; Samuel Rogerson, of Boreland; Miss Graham of Heithet; William Rogerson of Gillesbie; George Graham of Shaw; Thomas Beattie of Creeve; Andrew Kyle of Paddockhole; John Bell of Whiteknow; The Duke of Buccleuch. The only resident land-owners are, Messrs Rogerson, Graham, and Bell.

### III.—POPULATION.

Amount of population in 1801,	646
1811,	677
1821,	804
1831,	867
Number of families,	141
chiefly employed in agriculture,	104
trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	24
The yearly average of births for the last seven years is	18 $\frac{3}{4}$
do. deaths do.	9 $\frac{3}{4}$
do. marriages for do. 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ , or nearly	4

As the Dissenters occasionally neglect to get their children's ages registered, the average of births is probably stated too low.

The increase of the population appears to have been principally occasioned by the improvements that were made in the parish, during the last thirty or forty years, in consequence of which additional labourers and servants have been required. Within the last twenty years, a number of cottages have been erected on Corrie common, several with parks containing a few acres attached.

*Character, &c. of the People.*—During the last thirty or forty years, the inhabitants have generally improved in manners, intelligence, and good conduct. Various causes have contributed to this. The increased profits of farmers during the late war, and the advance in the wages of labourers and servants, have enabled these classes to obtain a greater number of the comforts of life. Greater attention has been paid to dress, and to cleanliness in their persons and habitations. The increased attention paid to the state of the public schools, has also had a considerable

influence. The mode of pronunciation is greatly improved, a more efficient and extensive course of education is attended to, and the attendance on the schools is more regular. For a considerable period, there has been a Sabbath school in each of the united parishes, from which the rising generation have derived great benefit. The old mode of burial has been long abandoned. The precise hour of meeting is observed, the time during which the company remain is short, and the service slight. The use of spirits, on other occasions also, has become more limited. As a proof of the general good conduct of the inhabitants, there have been no convictions of any of them, so far as is recollected, before a criminal court, except in a few instances for poaching. At the same time, worthless characters occasionally appear in the parish; but the worst of them come to us from other countries. Some have come from the north of England. The Irish also occasionally visit us, and offer their services at a rate ruinous to native labourers; and threaten to reduce these last to their own low condition. The profits from farms and the wages of labour having greatly decreased since the re-establishment of peace, there appears now a good deal of pecuniary distress. The consequence has been, emigration to the British North American possessions and the United States. Dr Smith observes in his *Wealth of Nations*, that man is, of all luggage, the most difficult to be transported; and that such is his attachment to the place of his birth, and where he has spent his early years, that he will cling to naked rocks, and pestilential swamps, to a land of storms and tempests. This attachment, however, appears to be losing strength with many. And indeed such numbers of their friends and acquaintances have preceded them, more especially to the British North American possessions, that they no longer consider these to be the land of strangers. The population of the parish, it will be seen, has been steadily advancing, notwithstanding of emigration, and since employment has become more difficult to be procured, it is fortunate there is such a vent for the superfluous population.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.* \*—The whole extent of the parish is nearly 23,000 imperial acres. Of this there are only 3000 occasionally cultivated, the remaining 20,000 not having been ploughed within the last forty years. But at an earlier period, and before the middle of last century, cultivation had been extended considerably farther than

\* The part of this article which relates to Industry was drawn up by Charles Stewart, Esq., factor for Mr Johnstone of Annandale.

it has been latterly. The number of farms was much greater,—two, three, and four, having afterwards in many cases been united into one: and the marks of the plough are visible on many places which have been long under sheep pasture. Within the last ten or twelve years, the proprietors and tenants of these pasture farms have found it profitable again to break up their dry uplands, which had been formerly ploughed, and were covered with heath and coarse grasses. They are generally of a fine dry soil; and although the elevation is in most cases great, being from 400 to 800 feet above sea level, yet, when limed, they produce excellent crops of oats and potatoes, which, although attended with some risk in bad seasons, more amply remunerate the farmer than his land kept long in rotation.

The pasture is, by liming and breaking, in part tripled in value. This improvement is going rapidly on; and it is not perhaps too much to say, that there are yet 1500 acres more of dry soil to be improved, having an elevation that admits of its being profitably brought under occasional cultivation.

There may be said to be no natural timber remaining in the parish, excepting a few scattered trees of ash along the banks of the Dryfe. The plantations are of very small extent, and chiefly made within the last five years. The whole do not exceed 100 acres, and are chiefly larch and spruce fir. Within the last two years a number of clumps have been planted on the sheep-farms for shelter,—a system which will no doubt be carried to a considerable extent. But although the soil is good, the elevation and exposure will make the growth tardy. About a century ago, ash trees seem to have been regularly planted around the farm-yards, and great care to have been taken in the rearing of them. From the plantations being so young, little management is yet required.

*Rent of Land.*—It is difficult to state a rent per acre of arable land, there being almost no farm without a considerable proportion of pasture. Were they separated, the best land on the lowest situation (although there is none less than 350 feet above sea level, and most of it 500,) would probably give L. 1 per acre. But, taking the average of the whole, it would not exceed 10s. There being no farms devoted entirely to the rearing or grazing black-cattle, the rate of rent per head cannot be distinctly ascertained. Where cattle happen to be taken in for grazing on ordinary unimproved land, the rate paid for the summer grass may be L. 1 for a year old, and L. 1, 10s. for a two year old. The rent per head for sheep is well known. Of the whole extent of the parish two-thirds are occupied by regular breeding stocks of Cheviot sheep,



and nearly all the stock-farms have been let just now from 5s. to 5s. 6d. per sheep.

*Live-Stock.*—About 15,000 acres, or two-thirds of the parish, are occupied as sheep-pasture in nine or ten regular breeding farms, keeping about 10,000 sheep, wholly Cheviot, with the exception of 600 or 700 of black-faced on the highest ground at the head of Dryfe. The farms are all what is termed *grassy* or *strong* land, and great attention having been paid to the improvement of the breed, perhaps there is no parish in Scotland which, on the whole, possesses a more valuable or productive stock of mountain sheep. The stocks belonging to Mr Graham of Shaw, and Mr Bell, tenant of Whitcastles, have in particular been considered as among the first of their kind in the border counties. Within the last four years, *cross* lambs from Leicester rams are bred on the lower situated sheep-farms, the ewe stock being kept up pure Cheviot. These cross lambs selling from twenty to thirty per cent. above the Cheviot, has greatly increased the annual returns from these farms; but it requires a longer experience to prove that this system will continue so profitable, there being considerable doubt whether the ewe stocks can be kept up of proper quality, and whether the present difference in the selling price of the lambs will continue.

The other third of the parish, in point of extent, is divided into farms from 150 to 600 acres, chiefly occupied in the rearing and grazing of black-cattle. Each of these has a portion of land in cultivation; but from its elevation, and the coldness of the climate, the farmers sell little corn, excepting in very favourable seasons. The cattle are all of the Galloway breed. They are mostly kept till two and three years old, and sold for the Norfolk market. Great attention has of late years been paid to their improvement, by obtaining superior bulls from Galloway, and by giving premiums at shows; but there is yet much room for better management, especially in the winter feeding. Ayrshire dairy cows have been introduced, apparently with much success, upon some farms in the neighbouring parishes; and the farms of this parish, which have generally tracts of strong rough pasturage, and abundance of meadow hay, have been considered well adapted to them; while, on the other hand, the small extent of green crop, and want of early and kindly grass, have been stated as great objections to their profitable management. It is probable, however, that before long the experiment will be made.

*Husbandry.*—A good deal has been done in surface-draining

the sheep land, and also the common cattle pastures; but the latter particularly admit of much improvement by this means. There have been few attempts at irrigation or embankments; indeed, the latter are little required. About twenty years ago, an injurious system prevailed of breaking up the natural coarse pastures on cold soils. The crops of corn were at first great; but the land is much depreciated in value. For some time past, this error has been seen, and none of this sort of soil is now cultivated; while, as before stated, the attention of farmers has been directed to the dry upland ridges, which have been of old under the plough.

The general length of leases on the property of Mr Hope Johnstone, being three-fourths of the parish in point of extent, is twenty-one years on the cattle and mixed farms, and thirteen years on the sheep farms.

On a number of the farms of the parish, the steadings have been rebuilt and slated within the last thirty years. But a portion yet remains to be done. When new leases are now let in this district, the houses are generally put in good order and slated. In point of enclosure, there has been a great extent of fencing executed within the last twenty years. Still much requires to be done, in order to bring the land to its full value. The elevation and coldness of soil in most situations, and want of wood for paling, are bars to the success of thorn hedges, now extensively planted; while stone dikes, which are the immediately useful and permanent fences, are, in most parts of the parish, difficult and expensive in the erection, from the scarcity of material of good quality.

The sheep district of the parish is, and has been, rapidly improving in production. There has been almost no change in the occupiers, for a long course of time. They are men of sufficient capital, and much intelligence in their business. The extent and progress of their enclosures, and good cultivation, their draining, and the high and improving character of their stock, shew that there has been nothing deficient on the part of the tenant, and no want of encouragement from the proprietor.

With regard to the more numerous, but smaller black cattle and mixed farms, the tenantry have not been so prosperous. High rents fixed at the end of the war, (although largely abated,) loss of capital by low and fluctuating prices, and by unremunerating cultivation in bad seasons, have retarded the improvements of this class of farms. Now that it is discovered that there should be little corn raised in the district, and that the colder soils should never

be ploughed, a more permanent and steady system of improvement may be expected to proceed. A good deal of attention has been directed to improvement by top-dressing with lime, and draining the extensive meadow lands for hay. The same system should extend to the low-situated rough pastures. No fences should be erected, excepting to be well kept. These improvements, particularly the liming, require great outlay on the part of both proprietor and tenant; and they can only be attended to on the part of the latter, where the farms are moderately and under-rented. Should there be no great depression in the price of farm produce, there is every reason to expect, that, from the encouragement by the landlords, and increasing intelligence of the tenants on this class of farms, a steady system of improvement will proceed;—although it may be noticed, that, hitherto in this district, in general these mixed cattle farms in cold districts have made much less advance in value by improvement and management, than either the dry arable farms of the lower country, or the more elevated and extensive sheep farms.

A circumstance may be mentioned, which will explain why the above species of farms has not, in many instances, thriven in this parish. The buying and selling of their black-cattle, a necessary part of the business of the farmers, has led to the habit of frequenting markets on all occasions, and ultimately to cattle-dealing, upon which, consequently, has followed inattention to their farms, and in too many cases, from the precarious nature of the business, loss and ruin. The changes, however, in the tenantry have already not been numerous from this or any other cause;—there being, since the peace in 1815, only two or three farms out of nearly forty in the parish, which have changed occupants.

*Produce.*—The average amount of raw produce raised in the parish may be stated as follows:—

<i>Imp. acres.</i>			
950	of oats, including straw, at L. 3, 10s.	L. 3925	0 0
300	green crop of all sorts, at L. 4,	1200	0 0
250	rye-grass hay, at L. 1, 15s.	437	10 0
60,000	stones of 24 lb. of meadow-hay, including cut from pasture land, at 3d.	750	0 0
10,500	sheep on regular sheep farms, total average amount of gross produce, at 7s.	3175	0 0
1,200	ditto, partially kept on cattle grounds, at 4s. 6d.	270	0 0
350	Galloway breeding cows; produce, deducting fodder and green crop, at L. 3,	1050	0 0
860	ditto young cattle, at L. 1, 12s.	1372	0 0
350	swine, being grass produce, deducting green crop and grain given at L. 1 for summer pasture, fuel, and trouble,	350	0 0
		L. 11,929	10 0

## V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Town.*—There are three different quarters in the parish, where a number of cottages are collected, to the amount of eight, ten, and twelve. There is nothing in it, deserving the name of a village. The nearest market-town, where there is also a post-office, is Lockerbie, distant from the church about seven miles. Dumfries, however, distant seventeen miles, supplies the principal market, to which there are regular weekly carriers,

*Means of Communication.*—The public roads have been greatly improved, or rather almost entirely formed, within the last thirty years. The country being considerably hilly, the roads were originally ill planned; but improvements are made from time to time, as the funds allow. There are two principal lines of road in the parish; the one from Dumfries, Lochmaben, and Lockerbie, towards Eskdalemuir, Ettrick, and Hawick, extending four miles; the other from Moffat, towards Langholm and Carlisle, extending eight miles. There are three bridges over the rivulets, Dryfe, Corrie, and Milk, the last of which divides this parish on the south-east from Tundergarth, for seven or eight miles. The roads and bridges are kept in good repair.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church stands near the Dryfe, on the west side of the parish, and is far from being in a central situation; the parish not extending more than a mile from it on the west; whereas, towards the north-east and south, it extends six. At the same time, the densest part of the population is round the church, and were a new one to be erected, it could not be perhaps placed more conveniently than the present. The church was built towards the beginning of the last century. An addition, in the language of the country, a *jam*, was built to it in 1764. It is kept in good repair, and forms a decent place of worship. It can accommodate 312 sitters. The manse was built in 1803, some additions and improvements having been since made. The glebe contains nearly 28 Scots acres, and may be worth L. 16 or L. 18 a year. The Court modified the stipend in 1823 to sixteen chalders, half barley, half oatmeal, with L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements.

The following distribution of the families of the parish among the different religious denominations approaches pretty nearly the truth. It is not professed to be perfectly accurate. In a number of instances, the members of a family belong to more denominations than one. Families belonging to the Established Church, 95;

Relief, 22; Secession, 12; Reformed Presbytery, 1. The average number of communicants at the Established Church is 140. The yearly average amount of collection in the church for religious and charitable objects, may be stated at L. 15 or L. 16.

*Education.*—There is a school in each of the divisions of the parish. That in the Hutton division is parochial. The salary, as lately fixed, is L. 27. The school fees may amount to L. 15. Mr James Graham, a native of this parish, bequeathed, in 1802, the sum of L. 260, two-thirds of the interest of which to be paid to the schoolmaster of Hutton, for teaching poor children reading, writing, and arithmetic, gratis. The school of Corrie is now become endowed. Mr Edward Moffat of Exeter originally left L. 280, the interest of which to be paid to the schoolmaster of Corrie, on condition of his teaching the whole children of this division of the parish reading and writing gratis. In 1820, Mr James Wilson, a native of Moffat, and grand-nephew of the original founder, added L. 20 per annum to the salary, on condition of the schoolmaster teaching the whole children, reading, writing, and arithmetic, gratis; and also that the school be considered as endowed; he and his heirs and successors appointing the schoolmasters; it being at same time understood, and expressly stated, that the trial of the qualifications of the schoolmasters, and the power of taking cognizance of their conduct, should be regulated by the act 1803. The heritors of Corrie have for a considerable time paid the schoolmaster a small salary of L. 8, 6s. 8d. At the same time, they have reserved to themselves the power of withholding it, should they be so disposed. The schoolmasters' houses and school-rooms have been lately rebuilt, and are in a good state. Besides a garden, the schoolmaster of Corrie has four Scots acres of good pasture. The branches taught in the schools are reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar, geography, mensuration, navigation, Latin, Greek, and French. The expense of education for nine months, during which proportion of the year the schools are taught, (the vacations being seldom short of three months,) is as follows: reading, 6s.; do with writing, 7s. 6d.; arithmetic, 9s.; any higher branches, 15s.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—Owing to unfortunate dispensations of Providence, the expense of the support of the poor has, within these few years, been greatly increased. The average yearly expense for the last seven years was L. 35, 17s. Assuming the number of families relieved to be 20, this gives nearly L. 1, 16s. for each. At the same time, a number of these cannot be con-

sidered on the poor's list, and receive merely a temporary relief. A few families, for the last four years, have received as high as L. 5 each. The funds to meet this expense are, collections in the church, L. 12; one-third of the interest of money, mortified by Mr James Graham, formerly mentioned, L. 4, 6s. 8d. The rest is supplied by donations from the heritors and others. I believe it is real necessity that induces any to apply for relief. An idly-disposed character may occasionally be found.

*Inns, &c.*—There is an inn in each part of the parish, with accommodation for travellers. Spirits and ale are also sold at a toll-bar. There is no drunkenness in the parish; and none can be said to frequent places, for the sake of strong drink. At the same time, spirits are drunk on occasions to a considerable extent.

*Fuel.*—Peat is used as fuel in this parish, except in a few families, which employ coal in their parlours. There are large fields of moss in the parish, sufficient for the supply of many future generations. The providing peat occupies a great number of hands during a considerable part of the summer. It has frequently to be carried a distance of two and three miles. But as coals are very expensive,—Annan, from which they are chiefly brought, being sixteen and eighteen miles from the greater part of the parish,—it is considered a most fortunate circumstance that the other fuel is so abundant.

*March 1833.*

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

It is hoped that the following observations, pointing out various evils which depress the tenantry and other classes, though of a general nature, will not be deemed foreign to the objects of this work.

1. The state of the tenantry would be greatly improved by a different mode of disposing of their surplus stock. The great proportion of their black-cattle and sheep, it is well known, goes to England. There is, however, no sound policy in the tenants themselves proceeding with them to the south fairs, and in so far becoming drovers: for not only are their farms thereby in danger of being neglected, and they themselves exposed to the risk of contracting unsteady and irregular habits, but there is, moreover, reason to apprehend, that they could not dispose of their stock to as good advantage as it would be disposed of by persons experienced in the trade. There appears, therefore, a propriety in disposing of their surplus stock to merchants who present themselves.

Now, it is the unfortunate character of many of these merchants which constitutes a principal drawback to the prosperity of the farmer. The writer must not be understood as insinuating anything to the disadvantage of men, who, having begun business on a small capital, and encountered bad fairs in the south, have not been able to implement their engagements. When they have made a fair surrender of their effects, nothing more can be required at their hands. But considering the great and repeated losses which farmers have experienced from the prevailing practice of giving credit, it surely deserves the consideration of the Highland Society, and of the other associations for promoting the interests of husbandry, whether another system might not be devised, and such losses prevented. Wool-staplers appear at certain seasons, and it is not understood that there is much risk or loss in transacting with them. It is believed, that were due pains employed, a safe class of merchants might present themselves for other objects as well as wool. It may be thought that the evil will cure itself, and that such repeated losses witnessed will render the country more cautious. But the evil does not appear to cure itself; and hence the interference of public-spirited individuals, or associations, is most desirable.

It is not meant, by what is here stated, to discountenance native dealers, even though in commencing trade their means should be humble. But it is suggested, that they should look, for support, to relatives or friends, who can attend to their proceedings, and observe that they are of a prudent and safe description, and check that adventurous and reckless spirit, which is a common characteristic of the profession, when credit can be obtained.

2. The burden of vagrant beggars contributes in no ordinary degree to depress a parish. It is difficult to compute the numbers of these over Scotland. Dunlop, in his Parochial Law, computes them, towards the end of the seventeenth century, at 200,000. And it appears that Government established manufactories, in order to compel them to work; and also ordered the burghs to build correction houses for confining and punishing them. The numbers are probably at present much less; but they are still very great. It is well known, that vagrant begging has, for ages past, been a regular trade. There are what may be called breeding places of pauperism over the kingdom, which send forth fresh swarms of paupers every season. Many marry and rear families without the smallest consideration how they are to be supported, except by the trade of beg-

ging. These wanderers have been allowed to multiply over Scotland without any hindrance. In England, checks have been employed to prevent the multiplication of the poor. They have been encouraged and assisted to emigrate; or they have been employed at home on roads, railways, canals, and the plantation and enclosure of waste lands. But in Scotland, their increase has scarcely met with a single check. The expense of supporting them over the kingdom must be very great. Some years ago, it was computed, on good data, that the expense of vagrants in this parish was ten times that of our own poor: and as our poor are half-supported by non-residing heritors, the expense of vagrants was probably twenty times the amount of what was contributed, within the parish, for our own poor.

From this, it appears to what a dreadful oppression the tenantry of the country are subjected. The loss is very great in a pecuniary point of view. But it is not merely in this light, the subject should be considered. We may readily conceive the disgusting circumstances attending the communications of the tenants with these paupers, and the contamination to which their families are exposed from such intercourse; and if the tenants are exposed to such oppression, the landed proprietors would do well to consider that their own interests must ultimately suffer. Indeed, the whole expense of vagrants must be considered as deductions from their rentals. Their tenants cannot thrive under such oppression. And, moreover, should they be exposed to it, they will do less for the resident poor; and consequently, a greater burden will be thrown upon the heritors. In this county, there are parishes where assessments are established, while it has been customary to demand no part from the tenantry, on account of their being subject to the heavy burden of vagrants.

It is to be regretted, that the very persons who chiefly suffer, are many of them hostile to any change. Having had vagrant begging always before their eyes, they look on it as a natural and necessary order of things. They look on vagrants as God's poor, for whose sustenance and support they are bound to provide; not considering that the proper objects of charity, that may be found among them, form a very small proportion of the whole,—probably not one-twentieth part,—and that even these proper objects have a right to be supported by their own parishes. At the same time, the suppression of this evil will occasion inconvenience and suffering to some. But no reformation can be set about without a por-



tion of this. Not to mention the powerful reasons for suppression formerly mentioned, it appears even an act of humanity to stop the multiplication of this idle and profligate race ; and compel them, if possible, to betake themselves to a life of industry, honesty, and decency. The oppression they occasion, moreover, prevents a due attention to our own poor, and it is not unfrequently alleged by many, that the expense of strangers is so heavy, that they have little to spare for the other. The same argument is employed to excuse their very indifferent contributions to public charities, or the funds of religious societies.

Several of the counties of Scotland are now bestirring themselves, and taking measures to root out this great national evil. And there appears little doubt, that the evil has only to be grappled with in order to be subdued. Should these counties persevere, and similar measures become general over the kingdom, the suppression of vagrant begging can still only be expected to be gradual. It appears to be a mistaken idea that it can be rendered immediately complete. Humanity points to a gradual abolition. It would be most distressing, should the wanderers find every door shut against them at once. By taking steady measures for a gradual suppression, they will obtain a fair warning, that the trade of begging is an unlawful one, and there is every reason to hope that they will gradually disappear. The great means to be employed, in accomplishing this measure, is to get the law of settlement enforced. The limits prescribed to the writer prevent his attending to this and some other matters. Let it merely be observed in conclusion, that when vagrants are sent to their place of settlement, they will accumulate in some quarters to very great numbers ; and the parishes may find it difficult to provide for them. It is to be hoped that collections and contributions will not be refused in behalf of cases attended with distressing circumstances.\*

\* Since the above was written, the county of Dumfries has adopted measures for the suppression of vagrant mendicity. A few years ago, the synod of Dumfries appointed a committee of their number to attend the meetings of the Commissioners of Supply, with a view to this object. After some delay, the commissioners directed the various parishes within the bounds of the synod to send reports, in order to enable them to judge whether the country was disposed and prepared to co-operate in putting a stop to the evil. These reports having been judged satisfactory, the commissioners voted L. 300 per annum for the payment of constables to be employed over the county ; it being understood that such parishes only would be entitled to the gratuitous services of constables, which should adopt the necessary regulations for putting a stop to vagrant begging. These regulations require station-houses to be provided in necessary places, where vagrants may get relief, and occasionally lodging, in passing, the parishioners steadily refusing alms. It is usual for a number of contiguous parishes to form themselves into a union. Notwithstanding that the measures

3. The use of ardent spirits debases and depresses all classes of the community. Two or three years ago, it was stated on authority, that the consumption of spirits in Great Britain, was 30,000,000 of gallons, of which 5,000,000 were consumed in Scotland. The population of Great Britain and Ireland was lately upwards of 23,000,000. And it has been calculated, that the expense of bread, the staff of life, is greatly less than the expense of spirits. The whole produce arising from the industry of all classes and professions, throughout the United Kingdom, has been calculated at L. 36,000,000, or L. 37,000,000. And a third of this has been employed in purchasing spirits.

But while it appears that the loss occasioned by expending money on strong drink is of no ordinary description, this, as every one knows, is by far the least evil attending the unfortunate propensity; the injury to health, and to every habit of activity, and every moral and religious feeling being incalculable. \*

4. The habit of using tobacco and snuff wastes to a lamentable extent the resources of the inhabitants of a parish. The following statement will show what these articles cost immense numbers of deluded people, throughout the nation. The duties paid on tobacco in Great Britain and Ireland for 1829 were stated to be L. 2,859,000. Add to this the cost of production, the expenses of freight, the profits of the manufacturer, wholesale merchant and retailer, and the whole will amount to an annual sum, which, in the course of fourscore years, would almost pay off the national debt. And all this is of course paid by the consumer. The proportion of duty for Scotland in 1829 was L. 273,000. Suppose L. 400,000 paid for the article by the consumers, which is pro-

have been adopted for a short period only, and have, moreover, met with opposition in some few quarters. vagrants have in a great measure vanished from the county. The office of constables, where they have been employed, has been found nearly a sinecure. And it does not appear that their services will be long required.—Nov. 1837.

\* In 1834, the House of Commons appointed a Select Committee of their number to take evidence on the vice of drunkenness. The witnesses ascribe a large proportion, much more than the half of the poverty, disease, and misery of the kingdom, to this vice. Nine-tenths of the crimes committed are considered by them as originating in drunkenness. The pecuniary loss to the nation from this vice, on viewing the subject in all its bearings, is estimated by the committee, in their report to the House of Commons, as little short of fifty millions per annum. A great many of the witnesses recommended the prohibition of distillation, as well as of the importation of spirits into the kingdom. In a religious view, the consequences of this vice, as appears from the evidence, are no less afflicting. In London, Manchester, Liverpool, Dublin, Glasgow, and all the large towns through the kingdom, the Sabbath, instead of being set apart to the service of God, is made by hundreds of thousands a high festival of dissipation, rioting, and profligacy. It is sincerely to be wished that the excellent institutions for rooting out drunkenness, now appearing in every part of the kingdom, may grapple successfully with this great destroyer.

bably too low a calculation, and that there are 1000 parishes, being a few more than the actual number, this gives L. 400 as the average for each parish. Such is the annual sum paid for an article of luxury, the using which arises from a mere idle habit, and which cannot be proved to be beneficial in any shape whatever. And since by far the greater part is consumed by the lower ranks, what inconsiderate folly on the part of this class, to expend upon an useless nuisance what might be usefully employed in purchasing food and clothing for themselves and their poor families !

I shall here state a circumstance, showing in a strong point of view, the foolish and unfortunate habits of the country. A considerable number of years ago, the kirk-session of this parish distributed somewhat less than L. 20 annually amongst its paupers, of whom the whole, or nearly the whole, made use of tobacco. And it was computed by those who had access to know, that a sum equal to the whole given by the session, was spent by these paupers in purchasing this article of luxury. This places in a strong light the absurdity and folly of wretched habits among the lower orders. Almost the whole of the collections in the church, together with sums derived from other sources, were expended by these poor people upon a nuisance ! To this poor result, and to the gratification of artificial, unnatural, and degrading appetites, the collected benevolence of the charitable of a whole parish was made to contribute ! This is a subject well deserving the consideration of those who have to support the poor. The use of these articles unquestionably adds very seriously to the burden of supporting them. L. 200 or L. 300 might be stated as a probable annual outlay for the nuisance in a parish. But I know parishes in the county of Dumfries, by no means distinguished for affluence, where the annual expense is above L. 800 ; and the greater part, perhaps nine-tenths of the nuisance, is consumed by poor people.

Before concluding, I have shortly to advert to two other grievances, which, it is believed, are found generally over the country, and which deserve the consideration of those who have the disposition and ability to promote the interests of society.

1. The general condition of cottagers is far from comfortable. The old clay or stone and turf houses are disappearing ; and substantial cottages, built with stone and lime and slated, are rising in their stead. But these last do not rise in sufficient numbers, and the accommodation of great numbers of poor families is very wretched. It is not uncommon to see two families, each pretty

numerous, living in one of these old cottages. One small apartment must serve for all purposes. It is most distressing to witness one of these families when fevers and other contagious diseases visit them. And not only is the accommodation wretched, but an exorbitant rent is frequently demanded, more especially when a family has a cow grazed,—an object about which families with young children are solicitous. The tenants allege, that the landlords rack them, and that they are under the necessity of acting the same part to their dependents. There are many liberal minded landlords in the country, who wish not to see either tenants or cottagers oppressed. And it would be well for the latter, were they to take them entirely under their own management and protection, as is practised in some parts of the country.

2. Much loss and mischief are occasioned by dishonest emigrants to America. It is well known, that the United States and the North American British Colonies are the quarters to which the eyes of thousands, who find they cannot thrive in their own country, are anxiously directed. And of these a considerable proportion are guilty of dishonest practices. During the ministry of the present incumbent, not much short of a score have left this parish under charges of various kinds; some to avoid supporting illegitimate children,—some, after swindling practices and committing forgery,—and some after committing frauds of all sorts, with a view to emigrate with their ill gotten gains. The state of our North American Colonies is such, that it may be said to hold out a premium to the practice of villany in the mother country. This is a subject well deserving the attention of our landed proprietors and legislators.

1836.

# PARISH OF HOLYWOOD.

PRESBYTERY OF DUMFRIES, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.

THE REV. ROBERT KIRKWOOD, A. M. MINISTER.

---

## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THE lower part of this parish was, unquestionably, at an early period, a *Quercetum*, or oak forest, extending most probably to Snaid, in the parish of Glencairn, a distance of eight miles. In the eastern part of the parish, a quarter of a mile south-west from the parish church, there are Druidical remains. Now the Druids, it is known, held special assemblies once a year, and their assemblies convened in a consecrated place. \* The grove or forest of this parish being designed or esteemed by them sacred, might transmit that character to the Culdees, their successors; and when a Catholic settlement was formed here, in the beginning of the twelfth century, it might be found advantageous to its object, still to continue its sacred character. That it was so designed by them is most evident. The charter seal of the Abbot, dated 1264, is in my possession. † It bears the following inscription: *Sg. Abbat. Sacri Nemoris—the seal of the Abbot of the Sacred Grove.* Besides, there is a bull of Pope Innocent III., addressed, *Abbate de sacro nemore*, to the Abbot of the Sacred Grove, in the diocess of Glasgow, ‡—that is Holywood, originally written Halywood and Haliewood.

*Extent and Boundaries.*—This parish is situated in the most beautiful portion of the vale of Nithsdale. It is bounded on the east by the parish of Dumfries; on the south, by Terregles, Irongray, and Kirkpatrick-Durham; on the west and north, by Glencairn and Dunscore; and on the north-east, by Kirkmahoe. It extends about 10 miles in length, and is about 1½ mile in breadth. It lies in the middle of an extensive valley, and the land is nearly without elevation. There is but one range of hills of short ex-

\* "Considunt in loco consecrato," Cæsar de Bello Gallico, Lib. vii. cap. xiii.

† Kindly furnished by Alexander M. Donald, Esq. of the Register Office, Edinburgh.

‡ See Connell on Teinds, Vol. iii. p. 10.

tent, and neither abrupt nor of great height. The parish contains 14 square miles.

*Hydrography.*—The river Nith glides along the eastern boundary of the parish, which it intersects at two places; and the intersections are obviously occasioned by a change in the line of the river during high floods, which happen frequently every season. To guard against the effect of these, several proprietors have secured their lands by embankments. The Nith, during summer, is fordable at three places.

The Cluden, a very considerable stream, runs along the south side of the parish for more than eight miles. It intersects it at three places; and in one of these, the lands of Speddoch and Milliganton, 1200 acres, are separated from the continuity of the parish. There is a ford often impassable during winter. There is now in building, two miles lower, a wooden bridge for carriages. The expense, L. 120, has been raised by subscription; a matter creditable to those who have taken an interest in it, and of certain public utility.

*Fishing.*—The Cluden is an excellent trouting stream, superior in this respect to the Nith. Salmon, sea-trout, herlings, and occasionally pike are found in it. It is much poached. The best fishing range, both for numbers and size of trout, is near and beyond the upper extremity of this parish. In the former account of the parish, it is stated, “that though the two rivers, *the Nith and the Cluden*, unite at the south-east corner of the parish, each has its own distinct species of salmon. The Cluden salmon are considerably thicker and shorter in the “body, and greatly shorter in the head than those of the Nith.” These peculiarities still exist, and if the fish has been more than two days run, its colour is much darker in the shade than one similarly situated in the Nith. This colour is obviously occasioned by some peculiarity in the water of the Cluden; and very probably this, that it contains a greater proportion of moss in solution.

The number of salmon taken in the Cluden is not great. From a verdict by jury lately obtained, stake-nets will be removed from the boundaries of the Nith upon the Solway, and therefore it is anticipated that more salmon will find their way to our linn and pools. It is, besides, the opinion of the most experienced fishermen, that the fishing season closes too early; and that, too, at the time, when the best fish are advancing, few of which, however, though not permitted to be legally taken, escape the torch

and the *spear* of those who respect neither the law nor the right applicable to this species of property. The close season, instead of commencing on the 25th of September, should extend to the 5th of October.

The lands of Cowhill and Porttract have a right to fishings in the Nith, and Fourmerkland in the Cluden.

The salmon caught are nearly all sold in Dumfries, at from 2s. to 6d. per pound, according to the time of the season. Springs are abundant, and the water is of the purest quality.

*Meteorology.*—The climate is dry, and eminently healthy. The correct habits of the people, and the fact, that they are all almost employed in agriculture or rural pursuits, may be assigned as the causes of the general good health which prevails. During the last fifteen years, there have been only four cases of typhous fever; and in this period, thirty-six persons have died of pulmonary consumption. This season, when scarlet fever has been peculiarly fatal in parishes around, out of sixty cases, in this parish, there were only three deaths.

*Geology.*—The upper part of the parish, in the hill portion of it, contains greywacke. Near the centre, at Rue and Newhouse, of Baltersan, there is hard red freestone, and also limestone. The dip is to the south. These are not worked. On the lands here mentioned, within twenty-five years, portions of lead ore have been turned up by the plough in considerable pieces; and, within twenty years, on the west boundary of Cowhill estate, a fragment was dug up, which weighed three pounds. At Cluden Bank, there is red freestone, but so coarse and soft as to be unfit for building.

Boulders are numerous in some parts of the parish. They consist chiefly of different varieties of large and small grained greywacke, conglomerate, and trap,—together with several varieties of granite and sienite, which, in general, are different from those of Criffel. They are found from a stone weight to three tons.

The soil of this parish is varied. The lands along the Nith, and also for a considerable tract on the Cluden, are of a deep alluvial soil, and entirely free of stones. Advancing beyond these tracts, the soil becomes lighter. It is dry, and lies for the most part on coarse sand, though, in some places, the sand is so fine as to be used for the purposes of building. There is another portion receding from the former, which consists of a deep strong loam. The subsoil is tilly, and abounds with small stones; yet, in suitable

seasons, it yields excellent crops. In the higher parts, the soil is of the same character, though less deep. This part has never been ploughed; nor probably would it pay, if it were. The grass, though not fine, is suitable for young cattle.

*Botany.*—This parish being almost entirely agricultural, the range of its botanical products is neither extensive nor interesting.

The following is a selection of its most common plants :—

Artemisia vulgaris	Cochlearia officinalis	Polypodium vulgare
Achillea millefolium	Geum urbanum	Oxalis acetosella
Agrimonia eupatoria	—— rivale	—— corniculata
Betonica officinalis	Holosteum umbellata	Plantago major
Carum carui	Mentha pulegium	Sambucus ebulus
Convallaria majalis	Orchis mascula	Marrubium vulgare.

There are no extensive woods in the parish. The trees are those common in the surrounding district, namely, oak, plane, ash, beech, birch, horse-chestnut, and larch, with an intermixture of spruce and Scotch fir in belts of planting.

*Zoology.*—The mole and the weasel are numerous. There is also a sufficient stock of polecats. Foxes frequent the hilly district, but they are not abundant. At times, they visit the lower district, at a distance from the scene of their fixed resort, and kill the barn fowl. Complaints, however, are not frequent against them; and this may be held as good evidence that they do not too severely annoy the farmers' wives, by depriving them of their feathered stock. The otter is to be found on the banks of the Nith. The severe amusement of otter-hunting has of late been revived. Hares and partridges are not so numerous as report affirms them to have been, when servants made it a stipulation not to have hare soup and salmon to dinner, in the respective seasons, more than three days in the week! The blackbird, the thrush, the bullfinch, and the linnet are abundant. The swallow and all the birds of the district are to be found over the parish. The owl has a domicile in the church steeple; and generally finds a home near every gentleman's mansion. Flocks of sea gulls, before a storm, advance from the Solway, a distance of eleven miles, and visit the lower and middle parts of the parish. They are never seen here, but before a storm. On one occasion, last year, they came in such numbers as to cover more than an acre of the glebe lands. They remained for some time, and before night a severe storm was experienced.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Land-owners.*—The principal land proprietors are, S. Denholm



Young, Esq. of Guilyhill ; Captain Charles James Johnston, R. N. of Cowhill ; Francis Maxwell, Esq. of Gribton ; Miss Gilchrist of Newtonairs ; the heirs of the late Dr John Gilchrist of Spedoch ; Thomas Corrie, Esq. of Stielston ; and Alexander Harley Maxwell, Esq. of Portract.

The number of proprietors of land having L. 50 and upwards of yearly rent, resident and non-resident, is 23. In all, there are 37 heritors, 17 of whom are non-resident,—a circumstance decidedly disadvantageous to land improvement, and to the interests of the parochial poor.

*Parochial Registers.*—The earliest register of baptisms, marriages, collections, and disbursements, is of date 30th December 1687. The register appears entire till 8th May 1697. It commences again 9th February 1725, and continues, except a few years after 1806, entire to the present time. It is evident, from the register of 1688, when many of the principal parishioners made confession, and were publicly rebuked for their sin of having taken the test,\* that the people of this parish were decidedly attached to the church, as their posterity have continued to this day ; and therefore there has existed no feeling hostile to the registration of baptisms and marriages.

*Patronage.*—The Earls of Nithsdale held the right of patronage of Irongray, Terregles, Kirkgunzeon, *Holywood*, and Ruthwell. William, Earl of Nithsdale, sold the patronage of Holywood to Alexander Ferguson of Isle in Kirkmahoe, advocate, in 1714. Robert, his son, was served and retoured heir to his father, and was the next patron. It was sold by him to Robert Fergusson of Fourmerkland in this parish. In 1724, Mrs Beveridge, spouse of the Rev. Andrew Beveridge, minister of Caerlaverock, was patroness in 1771. Her son, Robert, succeeded. His sister married the Rev. James M<sup>c</sup>Millan, minister of Torthorwald, and proprietor of the foresaid lands of Fourmerkland ; and their daughter, Ann, relict of Dr James Crichton, minister of Holywood, succeeded to the patronage,—by whom the present incumbent was presented. John Crichton, Esq. of Skeoch, purchased it in 1823, for L. 750, and his relict is now patroness.

*Eminent Men.*—Joannes de Sacro Bosco, it has often been supposed, was a native of Holywood. This, however, is not the fact.

\* That is, the Sacrament, in the Episcopal form, as a token or test of submission to the then tyrannical powers. Such state tricks are revolting to the spiritual genius of Christianity.

He may, for a time, have been a monk of the abbey; but he was a native of Halifax, in Yorkshire. He was educated at Oxford, and taught philosophy and mathematics at Paris. The Amalgam of Ptolemy and the Commentaries of the Arabs were abridged by him. His work was long famous as an elementary book, under the title of *De Sphaera Mundi*. \* He died at Paris 1235. †

The only person eminent in learning or science, a native of this parish, was Mr Charles Irvine, surgeon, mentioned in the former Account, by Dr Johnston. He was son of the late William Irvine, Esq. of Gribton, and the person who, some years before 1790, discovered the method of rendering salt water fresh, for which he was rewarded by Government with a grant of L. 5000.

*Antiquities—The Abbey.*—There are now no remains of the Abbey of Holywood. It stood in the south-east corner of the present burying-ground. It was founded by Dervorgilla, or Donagilla, daughter of Alan Lord of Galloway. She was the wife of John Baliol, Lord of Castle Bernard, and mother of John Baliol, declared King of the Scots by the decision of Edward I. 17th Nov. 1292. Spotiswood states that Souls Seat, near Stranraer, founded by Fergus Lord of Galloway, early in the twelfth century, was the mother of Holywood and Whitehorn.

The abbey belonged to the order of the Premonstratenses, founded by Norbert, Archbishop of Magdebourg, in 1121. This order was instituted in the diocese of Laon, in France; and the monks pretend that the place was called *Praemonstratum*, because it was divinely pointed out, *divina revelatione praemonstratum*. Six monasteries in Scotland belonged to the monks of this order, viz. Souls Seat, near Stranraer, Holywood, Whitehorn, Dryburgh, Kingland in Galloway, and Ferne in Ross. ‡ An inspection of the chartulary of the Bishoprick of Glasgow, which extends from the year 1115 to the Reformation, and which is preserved in the University library, would, it is probable, afford much information regarding the chartulary of Holywood.

The abbey, which had across the middle of the building a fine Gothic arch, by which the oak roof was supported, and whose entrance was through a handsome semicircular arch, was taken down in 1778, and the materials used for building the present parish church. The two bells which belonged to the abbey are still the

\* A copy of this very scarce work is in the library of the present incumbent.

† Adam's Geography, Introduction, page 24.

‡ Spotiswood's Appendix to Hope's Minor Practicks, p. 431. Edinburgh, 1734.

parish bells. They are of excellent tone, and one of them, by the inscription it bears, was consecrated by John Wrich, probably the abbot, in the year 1154.

*Tower.*—There is at Fourmerkland a tower of small extent. It was built by R. Maxwell, in the year 1590, and is still in part inhabited.

*Druidical Temple.*—Not more than a quarter of a mile south-west of the church, eleven large stones are placed in an oval form. There were twelve originally; but one, many years since, was removed. Their origin has always been traced to the times of the Druids. They are situated near the lower termination of the Sacred Grove, to which reference has been made. And there are lands about half a mile to the east, which of old extent are designated *Woodneuk*, so named because they were situated at one of the corners of the grove.

Six of these stones are small-grained greywacke; two, coarse-grained greywacke; and other two are greywacke, but the colour is of a green tint; and the last is a small-grained granite rock.

The greywacke seems to be of the same general description as the varieties of this rock which occur in Dumfries-shire. The original locality of the granite rock is more doubtful, as it differs from that of Criffel.

It is not easy to conceive how these masses could have been transferred to their present locality. The difficulty may be conceived, when it is stated, that the largest stone, by cubic measurement, weighs nearly twelve tons; and the second largest, nine tons.

On the lands of Holm, within a mile due east of these stones, there was, within the last fifty years, another Druidical temple. It consisted of nine large stones, and was situated on a small eminence within 200 yards of the Nith. Unfortunately, and without the knowledge of the proprietor, Peter Johnston, Esq. of Carnsalloch, they were broken and applied to the purposes of building.

*Cup.*—Among the *res sacræ* of the parish, there is a communion cup, made of silver. It is saucer-formed, and contains three gills and a half imperial, and weighs nine ounces. There is around it, an inscription in rudely formed capital letters—FOR THE PARISH OF HALIWOD, 1619. The initials of the stamp, C. R. F. E.

*Hospital.*—In the list of religious houses, Spotswood states, that Robert II. confirmed the foundation of an hospital made within the monastery of Holywood, by Archibald the Grim, Earl of Douglas.

*Modern Buildings.*—Broomrig House, on the banks of the Nith, the residence of S. Denholm Young, Esq. Two miles farther up the Nith is Cowhill House, the residence of Captain Charles James Johnston, R. N. It commands a most interesting view of the Vale of Nith, from Friars Carse, in Dunscore, to Dumfries. One mile still higher, is Portract House, the property of Alexander Harley Maxwell, Esq. Gribton House is situated on the Cluden, and is the residence of Francis Maxwell, Esq. It is built in the baronial style. Newton Airds, the property of Miss Gilchrist, a delightful residence, is also on the Cluden.

### III.—POPULATION.

In 1750 the population, according to the return to Dr Webster, was	612
1790,	786
1821,	1003
1831,	1066
Number of families in the parish,	207
chiefly employed in agriculture,	85
in trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	43
males,	502
females,	564
unmarried men, bachelors, and widowers upwards of 50 years of age,	16
women, including widows upwards of 45,	36
The average number of births yearly for the last 7 years,	26½
deaths,	15½
marriages,	11½
persons in the parish upwards of 70,	41
Two persons died this summer aged above 80, and a female a few years ago aged 96.	

*Mills.*—At Cluden, there are flour, corn, and barley mills, distant from Dumfries three miles. The proprietor is James Gillespie Gordon, Esq. London. The mills are let on a lease to the Company of Bakers Dumfries, at L. 200 per annum. Six persons are employed at from L. 20 to L. 36 yearly. The quantity of grain ground is, of wheat 4000 imperial bushels every three months; of oats 3000 do. do.; of barley shelled, 250 do. do.; of barley into flour, 107 do. do.

A quarter of a mile higher up the Cluden, there is a mill, in which barley is ground, flax is prepared, and wool carded. The water power here is equal to from 400 to 500 horses power, and it remains unaffected by the changes of the season. Wool is also spun by machinery on a small scale at Speddoch.

*Character of the People.*—In their habits they are very cleanly and steady, and in general irreproachable. They are affable and benevolent, and, with very few exceptions, they are punctual in their attendance on divine ordinances. In matters of religion, they have no feeling in common with those that are given to change. They are sound and firm Presbyterians; and, therefore, from well-de-

finer principle, they are steadily attached to the institutions of our country.

There is not an individual belonging to the parish who is either insane, or fatuous, or blind, deaf, or a cripple.

In the course of the last three years there were 6 illegitimate births in the parish.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

The number of acres imperial measure in this parish may be stated at	8960
Of which there are in wood,	540
meadow,	120
moor,	360
roads,	120
hill,	300

The remainder is all arable.

*Rent of Land.*—The best land is let at from L. 2 to L. 2, 6s. per acre, and the average rent is about L. 1, 5s. per acre. Grazing for a milk cow is L. 4. The leases of the principal farms are from fifteen to nineteen years. The real rental of the parish, as nearly as can be ascertained, is L. 7436. The rental in 1790, as stated in the former Account, was L. 3000.

*Produce.*—The produce of the parish has been doubled within the last thirty years. It is extremely difficult to obtain the exact produce; but, instead of this, there are presented the ascertained returns of the land per acre. At one period, the best wheat lands yielded from 50 to 60 bushels per acre. The average at present may be stated at from 25 to 30 do. There were individuals who persisted, till lately, to sow wheat, until the return was under 15 bushels per acre. The deficiency in this species of crop has been occasioned by improper management; and there can be little doubt, that if the wheat lands were put under summer fallow, and repeatedly ploughed, especially in the heaviest soils, during the season, and well-cleaned, and then fully manured, there would, as formerly, be available returns of crop.

The average of oats per acre is from 46 to 55 bushels imperial. There are lands that produce from 60 to 65 bushels; and one portion of late, newly broken up and improved, produced above 100 bushels per acre.

Barley yields an average of from 30 to 40 bushels per acre; best lands 55 to 60 do.

Ten tons may be given as the average per acre, of the potato crop; best lands, 15 tons, worth, on an average of seven years, L. 1, 2s. per ton. The ton at present sells at L. 2, 8s. 4d. This price is occasioned by the failure of the potato crop in this dis-

tract,—a failure in the seed, soon after planting, which has occurred every season for these four years past, and for the prevention of which no remedy has yet been discovered. The potato raised from the plum has shared the same fate. On the glebe this year, not one cut in forty of potatoes, in the fourth year from seed, vegetated. A simple process might be tried, and will, in this parish, be adopted next season. Let the dungsteads be turned over, at least twice in the season; and, if the weather permit, let the potatoes be planted not later than the first week in April.

*Turnip.*—This species of crop is in extensive operation. Bone manure is used at from 20 to 25 imperial bushels to the acre. The turnips are eat off by sheep, and pay at from L. 3 to L. 3, 10s. per acre.

The parish is all subdivided, and now nearly all drained. The farm-houses are good, and, for the most part, all slated. The rotation of cropping is what is termed a fifth shift, though there are not wanting instances of a fourth shift, a system of rotation that is ill adapted to the capabilities of the soil, and, on a fifteen years' lease, unprofitable to the tenant. If farmers only knew, and were willing to follow, Lord Bacon's remark, "That nature is not conquered but by obeying," it would essentially advance their interests and those of the landlords.

*Improvements.*—In 1827, Francis Maxwell, Esq. purchased the estate of Gribton, containing 550 Scotch acres. On surveying the lands, he found that in many fields it was difficult for the plough to enter sufficiently deep into the soil, because obstructed by stones imbedded, especially on the top of the subsoil. To devise means effectually to remove this obstruction, he devoted his energetic attention. Nor did he long deliberate.

In 1828, he commenced operations. The plan adopted was to draw a fur by the plough, on each side of the ridges. From the bottom of the fur so drawn, a man with a crow-bar raised the stones. He was followed by another, who removed them, even to 2lbs. laying them on the *unploughed* part of the ridge. By so laying them, they were more easily carted off than they would have been, from the part which had been ploughed. The opened up furs thus cleared of stones, the plough took its course with another set of furs; and thus, in succession, proceeded till the furs met at the crown of the ridges. By this process, all stones, from a pound weight to three tons, have been removed. The soil, now free, is in depth from twelve to fifteen inches. At present, 235 Scotch

acres are thus improved ; and there are yet 143 acres, which Mr Maxwell, with his wonted determination, intends to complete. From 8000 to 10,000 roods of drains have been cut, from three to nine feet deep, according to the levels ; in width, at the top, three feet ; and at the bottom, two feet ; all of which have been built and *penned*. The subsoil is clay-till, which, where the drains have been formed, has been removed by barrows, and then spread over the land at from two to six inches deep.

On an average, forty men, mostly from the Emerald Isle, have been employed, with little interruption, during eight years past. Some hundred thousand carts of stones have been cleared off, besides those used for filling up drains.

The average expense of trenching, clearing off stones, and draining, has been fully L. 20 per acre ; and the whole expense incurred since 1828 amounts to nearly L. 5000.

The improved lands have been cropped thus : *1st*, Two white crops, worth from L. 6 to L. 10 per acre. *2d*. Turnips, bone manure, L. 4 ; eat off by sheep, from L. 3 to L. 4. *3d*, Oats and barley, and sown out, yield from L. 8 to L. 10 per acre. *4th*, Rye-grass, worth from L. 3 to L. 5 per acre.

These lands, previous to their present state of improvement, were not worth on an average in grass more than 16s. an acre.

Mr Maxwell has highly enriched the general aspect of his estate, by a style of improvement and expense of which the south of Scotland affords few examples. It is to be hoped that the advanced value of the property will reimburse him for his unequalled perseverance as a land improver.

*Live-Stock*.—The Galloway and the Ayrshire breed of cattle are kept by the farmers in this parish. Few of the Galloway breed are fed off. They are all sold at one or two years old. The Ayrshire are esteemed as preferable for the purposes of the dairy. There is neither a drover nor a cattle-jobber in the parish.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Town*.—There is no market-town in the parish. Dumfries is the chief market place, three miles distant from the lower, and ten miles from the highest, part of the parish. It is the post-town.

*Villages*.—There are two small villages, viz. Holywood and Cluden village. The former contains thirty-five families. There are two grocers in it, who are licensed to retail ale and spirits. These and the toll-house at Cluden Bridge, are the only licensed

houses. It would be better if there were none, and there is no necessity for them. The practice, secured by the last turnpike act, of granting licenses to toll-houses indiscriminately, can neither be justified by any principle of utility, nor an enlightened regard to the economy and happiness of the people.

*Means of Communication.*—These means, in this parish, are of the first order. The roads, extending to nearly thirty miles, so intersect the parish, as to render every part of it of easy access. They are kept in repair by the statute labour conversion money, and they are in the very best travelling condition. The assessment on the lands is L. 60 per annum.

The great trust road from Carlisle to Glasgow by Dumfries passes through the parish near the manse. A daily coach from Carlisle to Glasgow passes in the morning; and one from Glasgow to Carlisle in the afternoon. There is a coach from Dumfries to Edinburgh, and another from Dumfries to Glasgow by Ayr, which passes three times a-week.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church of Holywood was built in 1779. It is a most comfortable building for the purpose. It has a square tower, of simple architecture. The situation of the church is incommodious, being not more than a mile from the lower part of the parish, and more than eight miles from the remotest house at the upper part of it. It is seated to contain, by legal measurement, 530 sitters, but 600 can be suitably accommodated. The number of communicants is 300.

The manse was built in 1773, and it and the church were completely repaired at an expense above L. 400, in 1821. The glebe contains eight acres of good arable land. The manse, offices, garden, &c. contain one acre of this quantity. The stipend was augmented in 1805, and is L. 174, 64 pecks of bear, Nithsdale measure, 66½ imperial bushels and 2 bolls of oat-meal, Nithsdale measure. In these is included L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements. The net stipend is about L. 181.

The following is the number of Dissenters in the parish:—Unit-ed Secession, 20; Reformed Presbytery, 4; Relief, 6; Episcopalian, 6; Catholics, not natives, 10; total, 46.

*Ministers of Holywood.*—In the parish records the following list is preserved of those who were ministers in this parish:

1. Mr Robert French was the first Presbyterian minister.
2. Mr Adam Rae, who preached two Sabbaths at Holywood, and one at Keir by turns.



3. In 1633, John Nimmo, who was also factor and chamberlain to the Earl of Nithsdale. He was suspended for some years, *reponed* in 1647, and deposed in 1652.

4. Mr William Hay was settled in April 1653, was *thrust* out by act of the Scots privy-council at Glasgow in 1662, after Episcopacy had been established in Scotland.

5. Mr Alexander Arbuthnot, first Episcopal minister after the Restoration, settled in 1633.

6. Mr John Malcom, turned out at the Revolution in 1688.

7. Mr William M'Millan, first Presbyterian minister after the Revolution. He died 25th February 1697.

8. Mr Robert Blair, ordained 27th September 1698, died 3d June 1724.

9. Mr John Scott, ordained 4th February 1725, translated to the new church Dumfries, 30th November 1732.

10. Mr Thomas Hamilton, ordained 21st February 1734, died at Glasgow 24th June 1772.

11. Bryce Johnston, ordained 22d August 1771. He had the degree of D.D. conferred on him. He published an Exposition on the Book of Revelation, and an Essay on the way to Restore and Perpetuate Peace, Good Order, and Prosperity. A volume of sermons was published after his death. He died 27th April 1805, aged 58.

12. James Crichton, D.D. was translated from Wamphray; inducted here 10th October 1805; died 26th July 1820.

13. The present incumbent was ordained 1st May 1821.

*Education.*—There are three parochial schools. The salary of the first is L. 26, 0s. 1d., but the teacher has neither dwelling-house nor garden. The school-house is capable of containing 100 children, and was built in 1823, at the expense of L. 130. It is situated near the church, and the branches taught are, English, writing, arithmetic, practical mathematics, book-keeping, geography, Latin, Greek, and French. Bible history and the first principles of religion are also taught. The school is conducted on the intellectual system. The salary of the second schoolmaster is L. 15, 0s. 1d., and that of the third is L. 10, 6s. 4d. The teachers of these two schools were not elected to teach Greek and French. The first master's whole income may be stated at L. 60: that of the second and third, at from L. 25 to L. 30 each.

The schools are examined once a year by a committee of presbytery. There is no person at fifteen years of age who cannot read; and parents very generally exhibit a becoming anxiety to

have their children educated, and there is no family at such a distance from the schools as to preclude the children from attending.

There is a private school at Holywood village, in which English reading and sewing are taught. It is conducted by two females.

*Poor.*—In 1790, when the population was 736, the poor on the roll were 15. At this date, the population is 1066, and the poor are only 16. *Six* of this number are above eighty years of age, and *three* are above seventy. They are supported by the collections, and from a fund created at a former period by the surplus of the collections. This surplus fund is L. 270, but is on the decrease. Two of the poor receive L. 4, 4s. per annum; one L. 4; and the rest from 8s. to 14s. a quarter, according to their circumstances. Except three, they are all able to aid in supporting themselves. In addition, each person on the roll living in the parish is allowed 12 cwt. of coals every winter; and a number of poor householders, but not on the roll, have the same allowance of coals. This plan has been pursued for the last fifteen years.

The nobility of Scottish independence exists strongly among the poor of this parish; but it never fails to wane, soon after a person is recognized among the class of parish paupers.

The collections amount to about L. 40 per annum.

There is no person a beggar belonging to the parish, nor would any be allowed, while there are funds to relieve the poor.

*Fuel.*—The fuel used is partly coal and partly peat. English coal is sold at Dumfries, from 14s. to 15s. per ton. Sanquhar coal, five miles distant, is sold at the same rate. Many of the farmers lead their coals from Sanquhar, a distance of twenty-three miles, sold at 5s. per ton.

*Library.*—Forty years ago, a library was formed in this parish. It contains many standard works, chiefly in doctrinal and practical Christianity, the evidences of religion and church history. It is supported by subscription.

*December 1837.*

# GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON THE COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.

BY THE REV. DR SINGER,  
MINISTER OF KIRKPATRICK-JUXTA.

---

1. In point of *situation* and *extent*, this County, according to Crawford's map, and to the Agricultural Survey of 1812, extends from  $55^{\circ}. 2'$  to  $55^{\circ}. 31'$  of North Latitude, and from  $2^{\circ}. 39'$  to  $3^{\circ}. 53'$  of West Longitude; being about 50 miles long, and 30 broad. The *circumference* extends about 21 miles along the Solway Frith, 33 miles of low-lying inland boundaries, and 120 miles across hills and mountains; in all 174 miles. Within this irregular circuit are 1006 *square miles* of land, and 10 square miles of water, in all 644,385 English acres; of which about one-fourth is in fields under tillage, and the rest in water, moss, or other waste lands, woods and plantations, roads, or sites of buildings, or hill and mountain pasture.

2. Dumfries-shire contains forty-two *parishes* nearly; for small portions of some of these extend beyond this county. It comprehends the three *dales* of Nith on the west, Annan in the middle, and Esk on the east; and the *population* of the whole was returned, in 1755, at 39,788 souls; in 1801, at 54,597; in 1811, at 62,783; in 1821, at 70,878; and in 1831, at 73,770; appearing to have nearly doubled in less than eighty years. The *synod* of Dumfries extends beyond the county, and contains five presbyteries, and fifty-five parishes, including Maxwelltown. The county has a general *slope* and aspect towards the Solway Frith on the south, mountain ranges on the north and east sheltering it from cold, and its inland situation protecting it from excessive Atlantic rains. A great proportion of the soil is dry,

and the wet sheep walks are mostly drained. Lochar Moss continues an unsightly waste of a vast extent of worthless flow between the towns of Dumfries and Annan, partly owing to the obstacle of entails; for a plan of draining it and rendering parts of it navigable for boats was given in by Smeaton in 1754, to Charles Duke of Queensberry, and his estimate at that time was not quite L. 3000, being only about 4s. per acre; this plan and estimate of a most important improvement having with difficulty been found, was therefore printed, in order to its preservation, in the Appendix of the Agricultural Survey. Dumfries-shire is a salubrious county in general, the Lochar Moss being the only thing of importance that is considered as hurtful, by its dense exhalations; but it is believed that peat moss does not cause marsh fever—a complaint very little heard of in this county.

3. The mountainous parts are of the *transition formation*, and the secondary strata reach upward from the Solway to the bases of the mountains. *Coal* is worked at Canonbie on the south-east, and at Sanquhar on the north-west of the county; in other parts, the trials not having been carried down so far as to give ground for success. *Lead* is worked at Wanlockhead on the north, and *lime* in various parts of the county. Several quarries of red, and one of gray, *sandstone* are regularly worked. *Slate* exists in several places, but not of hard and good quality. There is neither granite nor gneiss in Dumfries-shire, but plenty of *trap* and *whinstone* for building,—the *greywacke* of the hills to the north of Moffat being rich in quartz, and consequently hard, beautiful, and durable. There is *clay* rich in alum and iron in some places, and in others *marl* of the stone or clay or the shell variety. *Copper* has been searched for without success. The direction and dip of the lower strata vary considerably; and in some of them, thin veins of *gypsum*, in others of *calcareous spar*, have been observed, specks of which also appear, though rarely, in some stones quarried out of the sides and bottoms of rivulets for building. It is well known, that the neighbouring county on the west, called the stewartry of Kirkcudbright, is of *primary formation*, containing abundance of granite or gneiss, and the fields are less clear and plain, being often pierced at small distances by rocky eminences, between which, however, the soil, if well cultivated, is fertile and productive.

4. In comparing Dumfries-shire with the adjoining counties, the Stewartry appears of less extent, containing only 882 square miles, and about half the population of this county, and even La-

markshire, with nearly twice the population, containing only 945 square miles. Ayrshire far exceeds Dumfries-shire, having 1600 square miles, and about twice the population; but this county possesses nearly seven times as much cultivated land as the county of Peebles, and eighteen times as much as that of Selkirk. It has more sheep walks than these two counties put together, and nearly four times their united population. Yet some individual *parishes* in the Highlands are nearly as large as the whole of Dumfries-shire! This most inconvenient arrangement of parishes and counties, may have been less grossly unsuitable, when the land rents and population were very different from what they now are; but such a comparison leads to the conclusion, that a *new division* of counties and of parishes would be a most important national measure, with a view to future improvements.

5. *Manufactures* have never been very extensive in this county, and for some time they have dwindled away very much. *Commerce* has improved by the use of steam-boats, which now convey live-stock to England, along with goods and passengers. *The roads* have been wholly made within the memory of old persons, and in the lines of the mail-coaches they are now excellent; they are also *much* improved in the common parish lines, with a few exceptions. No *canal* has yet been made, nor any *railway*, though a survey has been commenced in order to connect Glasgow and Edinburgh with Carlisle. Dumfries-shire, being a *border* county, could never be improved before the union with England; but that great object was promoted very much by the Scottish act 1633, allowing teinds or tithes to be valued once for all, and thus removing an obstruction to improvement, which in barren soils would otherwise have been insuperable. The suppression of the civil wars, and the repeal of the jurisdiction act made way for improvement; and the church and school establishment carried the principles of religion and morality with useful knowledge over the land. The good effects of patriotic Associations had also considerable influence; and since the former series of statistical reports, between forty and fifty years ago, down to the late stagnation of demand and prices for land produce, the course of improvement in Dumfries-shire has been remarkably great and beneficial. The produce of the soil has far more than equalled the advances in population; and in the towns and villages, but still more in the roads and bridges, the farm-houses and offices, the fences and culture of the lands, the improvement of the live-stock, the cottages, the churches and

schools ; and in the dress and appearance of the people, and all the markets for produce and necessaries,—this may be almost considered as a *new county* ; so greatly has it been improved in less than fifty years ; and now England and Scotland enjoy the benefits of their union, to their mutual advantage, and to a great extent.

6. One obvious cause of this advance in prosperity has been the constant and *growing* encouragement in the markets for land produce, which has gone on for a long period, notwithstanding some years or times of stagnation ; and if the present state of the markets would improve, the tide of advance would soon recommence, and the cultivated lands of this county might be farther meliorated and rendered more productive, perhaps to an extent equal to all that has yet been done for them. In 1656, a return of the valued rents of the land was made up for all Scotland, and those of Dumfries-shire came in Sterling money to rather above L. 13,000 ; hut in 1808, the returns of the same lands had risen to above L. 200,000, about sixteen times the land rents of 1656. It appears, indeed, from the statistical reports made up from forty to fifty years ago, that even then the real rents of land were advanced to eight times the old valued rents on the average of Scotland ; and that in some counties they were twelve times as great. These are unquestionable facts, long before the public, and never seriously contradicted, being incapable of refutation. It may be stated, that, according to a statement of the numbers, duties, and livings of the clergy of Scotland in 1807, the average prices of the necessaries of life had risen to five times the prices only fifty years before. It is certain that land rents rose in Dumfries-shire much above those of 1808 ; but that events occurred thereafter to reduce them by abatements and otherwise, so that now, after twenty-seven years, the amount is not more, perhaps, than in 1808.

7. The agriculture of Dumfries-shire may be considered as a *national* object. The lands which are devoted to farming, and whose rental is about L. 200,000, at twenty-five years purchase are worth five millions Sterling ; and the buildings have cost the land proprietors, at two and a half years rents, another half million. The farmers do not find it safe to enter on leases with less than about L. 5 of capital and credit per arable acre in course of cultivation, which, for 160,000 acres in the rotation fields, added to 10s. per acre for nearly three times as great an extent not in cultivation, would indicate in all a farming capital of about one mil-

lion Sterling for the whole of Dumfries-shire, the property of the farmers themselves. Let this be added to the value of the lands and the farm-buildings, and it would seem that about six millions and a half Sterling are embarked in the farming of this county.

8. The returns in rent are very moderate, surely, as above; but the *gross returns* ought to be very considerable,—three times the rent of lands in cultivation being thought by no means excessive to cover the whole outlay, risk, and interest with moderate profits; and twice the rent of lands in pasturage, all as the gross returns of the land. Now, as the prices of these times can hardly be calculated above L. 4 for the returns per English acre, or L. 5 per Scottish acre under crops, and the lands in crop are not above two-fifths of the whole fields, or cultivated lands, the other three-fifths being in grass;

64,000 acres in white and green crops, at L. 4 per acre, would give as the total of crops yearly,	L. 256,000
And cattle having for some time returned little for the mere grass, and being also rather fewer in number than in 1812, though better grazed, the gross returns of 30,000 at L. 1, 10s. each are	45,000
Sheep are fully as numerous as in 1812, having partly the lower pastures now, and the returns for two or three years have been improved, but still the mere pasturage returns of 200,000 sheep at 7s. 6d. each would exceed the average beyond three years, and are	75,000
Pigs return little for mere grazing, certainly not above L. 1 for each, which for 30,000 pigs would be	30,000
The breeding of horses is chiefly to keep up the stock; and for poultry, bees, &c. the returns are small; but it may be only fair to state the whole at a sum equal to the gross returns from pigs being	30,000

And the total returns from crops and pasturage would thus be, L. 436,000

A sum fully high stated, as is believed, on reviewing it; and these returns are becoming less and less yearly, instead of increasing, as they ought to do, so as to encourage improvement in arable land.

9. The farmer must bear his proportion of taxation; but he very naturally asks, why should not the fundholder do the same? The navy 5 per cents. were fairly reduced to 4, with the reasonable option to accept or be paid off; and when banks give only 2 per cent. on deposits, it again occurs very naturally, why not go farther in the same way to reduce part of the twenty-eight millions of interest on the public debt?

10. Sir Henry Parnell and the Agricultural Committee of the House of Commons may, in this way, find something to compensate for part of the malt taxes; and they may also be assured that if all these were repealed, and the growth of barley left unburdened, it would extend very far indeed, and render importation of barley both unnecessary and improper. The duties on spirits might then be raised, and perhaps on porter for public sale; and this

committee would confer on the nation a most important benefit, by a total repeal of the malt duties for private consumption of ale and beer. For the most perfect system of improvement of land consists in barley following turnips eaten off by sheep, and introducing clovers and other sown grasses with the most advantage ; besides that, in late bad seasons, barley is the only crop that ripens fully, so as to lessen want and prevent famine : and by allowing the manufacture of grain in every possible way, spirits excepted, there will be a liberal use of it for the comforts, the health, and the morals of the people ; and then, when a bad season occurs, the surplus thus applied in favourable seasons will supply the wants of the year in the home market, and prevent the necessity of exporting gold in the purchase of foreign grain ; and, by extending the culture of barley to soils now overdone with wheat, the farmers will have encouragement for the culture of wheat on proper soils, by relieving it of the superabundant portion of wheat produce, and thus will the safety, the comforts, and morals of this country be all promoted.

11. It is of importance to consider that the culture of barley is not only discouraged and oppressed by a malt tax equal to the value of the grain, but by the apathy or ignorance of the owners of mills. It is liable when ground into pot-barley or meal to the heavy dues of about fourpence the bushel, being 10 per cent. of the value of the grain ; and as the offal is commonly kept by the millers for their own use,—if the barley be made into the finest description called pearly barley, a very large proportion goes off in working, which is also retained as part of the dust, though also rich in meal ; and betwixt the heavy malt taxes and mill dues, it is really surprising that the culture of this best grain of the United Kingdom is continued at all. It would not be continued, if it were not for the genuine value and importance of a grain so trustworthy and so favourable to the improvement of the soil ; but though it is continued on a reduced scale, it would extend very much indeed, if these unnatural and most injudicious restrictions were all taken off ; and landholders, in particular, and all classes would bless the liberal and wise promoters of this relief, perhaps the most important measure that can be adopted for the general good of the United Kingdom, and for the special benefit of the county of Dumfries among others. It would provide for the health, comfort, and morals of the people, and in a bad season it would secure at home the grain that must be imported under the present system, and



paid for in gold to the ruin of our exchanges; it would relieve wheat farmers and soils of competition against barley, reducing the excess of wheat, and rendering it worth cultivating; it would improve the soil on the best plan, and enrich the pastures, all which is obstructed by the present most improper system.

12. The high multures at corn-mills have become oppressive; and the owners of mills have seen this, and commonly relieved their own tenants, leaving them at liberty to carry their grain to any mill, and trusting to free trade for a due regulation of the rates of mill services. This would be all very well if mills were so thick set, and so good, as, without inconvenience, to give a free choice; but the distance of some of them and other circumstances prevent this intended benefit, and when any rate may be demanded at the mills, there is no certain rule, and there can be no transgression. The old compensation for both multures and services often comes to a ninth of the grain; and frequently about an eighteenth is actually demanded and taken for oats ground into meal. The fair proportion is now practically settled at some of the best mills, being half a stone of meal for kiln-drying sixty bushels of grain, and the forty-one stone of meal for the mill dues. It should never exceed this, as the most intelligent millers themselves now confess; and if all the offal of barley be returned to the farmers, fourpence the bushel for grinding is fair enough. The dues for wheat are generally more uniform and fair; but landholders, whose farms are thirled to mills belonging to others, can now insist on a commutation of the multures, by a Sheriff-court process, on the average of seven years, and then their lands will be free to cultivation to any extent, and at any mills they will only have to pay for the ordinary dues as above-mentioned. These are matters of importance in this county.

13. The *union* of Great Britain *with Ireland* has not yet been attended with any benefit to the county of Dumfries. Increasing numbers of half-bred cattle, and quantities of inferior produce of land, have interfered in the markets, prematurely drawn away from the Irish population. Great numbers of poor people also come over as half or common beggars; and if labourers from Ireland happen to be employed, they commonly leave improper burdens, or an immoral taint behind them. Exceptions there are, indeed, but these are very few in number.

14. *The poor* of Dumfries-shire are commonly well attended to; and, except out of two or three parishes, few of them wander

abroad as common beggars. The system of assessments is neither very general nor very burdensome ; and in some parishes one-half per cent. or 10s. for every L. 100 of land-rent, put in voluntarily in aid of the collections, &c. have been found sufficient as a help to support the poor in their own houses,—the most needful getting about L. 1 per quarter, and others less. On this plan they may be supported with this aid and their own efforts, and so' as not to be idle, discontented, or profligate. Dissenters do not generally apply their collections for the support of the poor.

15. Many *vagrants* from all quarters, and especially from the large towns, but most of all from Ireland, and latterly a few even from England, wander over and infest this county, almost always under false pretences, and raising contributions from the farmers and others, many times above all that these contribute to the poor of the parish ; and it is vain to send them back to their own countries or towns, or to inflict on them any statutory punishments. The only simple and effective plan is, to appoint a few houses in which to give them bread for their subsistence merely in passing through, and to refuse them supplies at every other. One class of vagrants, carried about in barrows or carts, it is cruel and disgraceful in their own parishes to send out, and illegal and unjust to burden the public so heavily with their conveyance alone, exclusive of their support ; and the rule of a late respectable Sheriff ought to be adopted, in sending every such person back to the place from which he found entrance into this county.

16. The *parish schools*, though placed by the act, 1803, on a better foundation, and gradually improving, are not sufficient to educate the augmented population. A greater number of schools are wanted, and the act above quoted should be amended, so far, at least, as to give sufficient accommodation in houses. It would be very useful also, if landholders would act along with the ministers of parishes at examinations. The improved modes of teaching are introducing slowly ; but assistants for this purpose would be necessary in aid of the principal teachers. Model schools would prepare these assistants, and render them more useful. The schools in Dumfries have been duly patronized, and also those at Annan, Moffat, and other places. The school of Closeburn was eminent at one time, and that of Caerlaverock is still well attended. A great error occurred in fixing the qualification of electors of parish teachers at L. 100 Scots valued rent ; for in the Highlands, there are estates below that valuation, yet returning in land reuts far

above L. 100 Sterling. This ought to have been the amount of qualification; and the act 1803 should now be extended to schools in burghs. Presbyteries ought not both to be libellers and judges, because there is no appeal from their sentences, and therefore they ought never to prosecute; or, if they do, there should be a privilege of appeal, as formerly, to the higher church courts, in whom the jurisdiction has been adjudged finally to rest.

17. *Dissenters* are not very numerous in Dumfries-shire. The Catholic population reside mostly near Dumfries, and also the families of the Protestant Episcopal persuasion. Secession and Relief chapels are dispersed in various quarters, and some belonging to the Consistent Old Seceders, now denominated Cameronians, or the Reformed Presbytery. In the county town of Dumfries, Dissenters are more numerous than in other places, and in a higher proportion to the Established Church. It is not thought that in the whole county their number is above ten in the hundred; and in the parish where this is written, there are not so many as ten out of a thousand of population; and of these, most part, or the whole, have been seen occasionally in the parish church. One congregation in Dumfries, with their minister, have joined themselves to the Established Church; and above forty other congregations of the Old Burghers have made a movement of this description elsewhere.

18. The church lands of Scotland were at one time considered equal to one-half of the whole in value; and all this enormous property, excepting the insignificant portions of glebe lands, went to the Crown, and was mostly disposed in grants to the barons. *The Teinds* were solemnly declared by Parliament to be "*the patrimony of the church*;" and being valued once for all by the act 1633, the amount of the teinds could not be very great, if decrees were early taken out and preserved. Besides all this, many of the parishes were annexed to others and suppressed; and the ministers being declared to be stipendiary, the Court of Teinds only awarded reasonable stipends out of the teinds; the surplus or free teinds being left gratuitously with titulars having Crown rights, or with patrons, yet always liable by law, and also in practice, to be exhausted for stipends and augmentations. Heritors might purchase the free teinds of their lands, at nine years' purchase to the titulars, and six years to the patrons; and yet the free teinds over all Scotland would endow all the churches, though many new ones were built, and new parishes erected. This power the Court of

Teinds formerly possessed, and it is more necessary than ever that it be now restored.

19. It would then be a simple matter to consider all the surplus teinds in Scotland *as one general fund*, out of which to grant necessary endowments ; only respecting vested rights, in the ministers to be preferred to augmentations, and in heritors who had purchased lately, to be allowed for the remaining years not compensated ; giving to all persons due compensation, in so far as they could show it to be due to them *bona fide* for payments legally made. In this way, endowments could be settled out of the general fund of surplus teinds, by decree of the proper court, without calling on government, or burdening the public with yearly grants. On this plan, also, heritors would be no parties against ministers, and augmentations might be sued for, simply by petition, without litigation : and in this case, the whole of the annoying, expensive, and unsatisfactory striking of the fiars, in order to ascertain the stipends yearly, would be superseded as unnecessary ; provided that, by legislative act, the amount of stipends already fixed by decree were ascertained in money, once for all, by the average fiars of Linlithgowshire, for a proper number of years preceding : And it would then, of course, fall to the Court to award stipends to all parish ministers, including those of the smaller livings, that justice might also be done to them, as to all others, without litigation, and consequently without bad feeling or expense.

20. About thirty years ago, a movement was made among the *land proprietors* in several counties of Scotland *against the jurisdiction of this church* ; but it was not encouraged by men in power, and it soon passed away. A statement, simply and shortly drawn up, of the numbers, duties, and stipends of the ministers was published in 1807, and, being mostly founded on undoubted facts, no answer to it was ever made. On the contrary, various important suggestions contained in it were carried into effect by the Legislature, and yet it still remains to be declared, *1st*, that when the teinds are exhausted, the expense of *communion elements* may be awarded out of the stock ; and *2d*, that when a *grass glebe* has not been obtained, the fair compensation may be granted, instead of the trifling equivalent of former times, now quite illusory. As to processes for augmentations of stipend, and the proper fund out of which to grant them, it will be seen to be more and more just and reasonable, to provide for all these out of the general fund of free or surplus teinds to be modified by the Court of Teinds on simple petitions. *Exten-*

tion is now absolutely necessary, in order to take in the vast masses of ignorant poor ; and what mean of providing for this, more just or proper, is it possible to conceive, than the general application of all the teinds, being the declared patrimony of the church ?

21. *The Police* of Dumfries-shire has been very weak since the reduction of all the armed force of the county. In the year 1812, this force amounted to two battalions of local militia of 719 men in each ; a separate battalion of 400 men ; and three troops of yeomanry cavalry, consisting of 120 men ; a force in all, of 1958 men. The reduction of the yeomanry force was injudicious, and also that of the militia staff ; because the known and total want of an armed force actually encourages crime ; and then it also prevents effective means of apprehension and punishment. It is, indeed, most honourable to the character of the people of this county, that, in such circumstances, atrocious crimes are so seldom committed ; and no one doubts the blessed influence of religious principle and education, both founded in the word of God, in preventing gross crimes ; but still there ought to be a company of yeomanry in each of the districts, and this force would cost little to Government, and would give support to the magistracy in case of need. There ought also to be a new and more efficient constabulary force, and a legal prison in each of the larger towns of the county, with a reasonable and less reluctant compensation for expenses in maintaining the peace of the community out of proper funds.

22. *The Domestic Animals*, or live-stocks, have been greatly improved, consisting chiefly of Galloway cattle and of Cheviot sheep. Ayrshire cows for the dairy, and short-horned cattle for early feeding, with half-bred sheep, a cross of the Leicester, have been getting into favour, in suitable places ; and the quantity of milk, early feeding, and length and weight of wool, are now important considerations with farmers. The breeds of horses, pigs, and poultry are too little attended to by many farmers.

23. *The Sea fishings* of the Solway Frith are of little use to this county, white fish not being duly sought for ; and the salmon fishings of the rivers having been ruined by stake-nets at their mouths, which, though allowed by some old Scottish acts, ought to have been repealed at the Union of the Kingdoms, or to be considered as no longer in force under the altered modes of using them.

24. *A want of employment*, especially for aged females, and chiefly in winter, has been much complained of ; but why not attempt some parts of the manufactures of the blind in Glasgow and Edinburgh,

such as mattresses and other work not fit for machinery, as coarse bonnets, &c.

25. All the most useful *white and green crops* that suit Dumfries-shire are now well known. Wheat has been overdone, because barley was discouraged by unwise and unjust exactions; and when these are removed, the culture of wheat thus relieved will become remunerative, if the rashness of legislation allow it to be so. The most suitable varieties of wheat, barley, and oats, are now known, and to discourage the culture of them would be a national misfortune, as they cannot be too much encouraged for all sorts of useful manufacture, and for the purposes of feeding live-stock; and in the surplus thus applied in good years, we have a resource against bad seasons far better than in any imported grain, while the benefit of a rise in price goes to the home grower.

26. The separation of *weeds* from seed-corn, and the destruction of weeds in the land, are now better understood; and we seldom see a field destroyed by corn marigold or by spurry, as was too common in former times. The system of rotations of crops is more perfect, as two white crops are seldom allowed in immediate succession, and the fallows are better worked. But still the ox-eye (*viz. Chrysanthemum Leucanthemum,*) though a congener of the gule, is not to be destroyed in the same way; being a strong perennial, which requires to be pulled by hand, when its flowers first appear—an operation that a few children can soon perform—and the couch grass, *Triticum repens*, is best extirpated when, after a fallow, there is a continued pasturage of three years. No decent farmer now allows ragweed and thistles to form and scatter their seeds by the wind, but they cut them down when in early flower. The seeds of many weeds are separated from grain by floating them off in water before sowing; and many farmers prefer to pasture the first crop of grass instead of cutting it for hay. Even the smoothing of the land by stoning and rolling allows the scythe to follow in cutting the corn, which enlarges the bulk of straw by at least a fourth part, and this tells materially in the litter, and the manure and crops of another year; all which leads to a better and more perfect system of agriculture.

27. But though agriculture is the great field of employment and subsistence by means of our home resources, and provides most of the materials of subsistence for the population at large, *rash and selfish plans* are constantly agitated, which would lead to discourage agriculture, and to destroy the immense capital em-

barked in it ; and though the warehousing of foreign corn on bond pre-occupies the capital and granaries of merchants, this is not deemed sufficient, unless the grain now on bond be allowed to be taken out without payment of duty, and contrary to law, under pretence of exporting the meal ; a proposal fraught with farther depreciation to the grain of this country, by throwing into the markets fraudulently a great deal of ill-preserved corn ground into meal, and unfit and unsafe for use ; and certainly if the law be at all in force, this project ought at once and decidedly to be reprobated. Nothing can more speedily and certainly hurt the interests of the manufacturers, and even those of commerce, all which are confessedly and mutually connected, than the selfish and ignorant policy of those who, by crude theories and rash projects, would bring into peril the greatest of all British interests, and with them the comforts and morals, and even the support of a great proportion of our population. The most pressing claims of the British farmers ought to be urgently brought forward ; and as a board of trade has been eminently useful, the present seems the time also to renew what did much good before, and was without necessity suppressed, — a Board of Agriculture. It is to be feared, indeed, that before anything can be done, farmers may sink into apathy and ruin.

28. The Dumfries-shire *Flora* varies in different places, according to the nature of the soil, subsoil, and elevation, with the modes of culture. Artificial cultivation has altered and improved barren heaths, and made them rich in white clover, now become indigenous there by the use of lime and marl. Peat mosses, utterly barren, or yielding only tufts of heath or of bog cotton, have been turned into meadows, rich in productive crops of hay. Lands that were unfit to produce white oats or barley, are now, in due order, productive in both. Stiff lands covered by whins now produce crops of wheat, and gravelly soils covered with broom, now yield crops of oats or barley, followed by sown grasses. Lime has been extensively effectual as a manure in this county ; and on coarse lands, where it was not formerly applied, there is great need of lime, if the farmers could afford the outlay. Marl has been found expensive in taking out and carting it on lands, and composts are liable to the same objection. Burnt clay has gone out of use, and bone manure has come into favour, being so easily carried ; but the question now is, not so much what manure would suit best, as what the farmer can afford to apply. The old grey oat, full of long awns, has given way to good white oats, of

which early varieties are in use, dividing the labours of seed-time and harvest, and ripening on late and cold soils. The gardener's flora has also, but on a smaller scale, been cultivated and improved. Our wild-flowers are sometimes attractive, especially when the bees enjoy the full tide of richness and beauty in the clover fields, or on the purpled heaths; and every watered and rocky cleugh has its indigenous and beautiful flowers, and the natural meadows are also beautiful and attractive in season.

29. *The Apiary* is too little considered; but no farmer or cottager should want bees, especially as a mode of obtaining the purest honey without killing the bees, is known and simple; that is, when the hive is about to cast the first or second time, opening a hole of from four to six inches diameter in the top, and setting on an empty skep above, which will soon be filled, and may be removed, and the place closed up in due time. A bee-master should have bushes in his garden, and flowering herbs. Bees may be overstocked, but in conveying the pollen of plants, they may be useful in promoting the economy of nature.

30. Average prices of grain in the county of Dumfries for the last fifteen years, as fixed by the fiars.

Wheat per imperial bushel,	L. 0 6 7 $\frac{1}{4}$
Barley,	0 3 8 $\frac{1}{4}$
Barley malt,	0 8 6 $\frac{1}{4}$
White oats,	0 2 5 $\frac{1}{4}$
Potato oats,	0 2 8 $\frac{1}{4}$
One year of the fifteen no proof of potato oats.	
Bear eleven years imperial bushel.	0 3 2 $\frac{1}{4}$
Four years of the fifteen no proof of bear, now hardly sown.	
Peas, gray, nine years imperial bushel,	0 4 3 $\frac{1}{4}$
Beans, nine do. do.	0 4 1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Six years no proof of beans and peas.	
Oatmeal 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ pounds to the stone, from 1821 to 1825, inclusive,	0 2 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Oatmeal 14 pounds imperial stone, from 1826 to 1835, inclusive,	0 1 7 $\frac{1}{10}$

#### ADDENDA—DUMFRIES-SHIRE.

In August 1835, a careful survey of the parish of Dumfries was made by the Elders, which established the following facts.

Population at that date, above 12 years of age,	7741	Roman Catholics having seats,	141
Do. below do.	3305	Communicants of all denominations,	3369
Total,	11,046	Attending worship,	7160
Of the Established Church, examinable,	4509	Having seats taken,	3232
Do. attending,	4898	Episcopalians, examinable,	111
Do. having seats,	2224	Do. attending,	132
Roman Catholics, examinable,	442	Do. having seats,	58
Do. attending,	529	Other denominations examinable,	1414
Professing no form of worship, above 12 years of age,		Do. attending,	1581
Do. below do.		Do. having seats,	809
			1265
			2601



*List of the Habitats of a few of the Rarer Plants occurring in  
Dumfries-shire.\**

*Salicornia herbacea*, within high-water mark at the mouth of the Annan,  
and along the shore on both sides of the river.

*Circaea alpina*, woods at Bald Crag, north side.

*Veronica saxatilis*, higher Moffat hills.

*Utricularia minor*, marshy pools in Archwood's meadow,—(will be de-  
stroyed by his improvements.) Bog on farm of Hanginshaw, both in  
Applegarth.

*Sclænus nigricans*, shore about the mouth of River Annan.

*Hierochloa borealis*, higher Moffat hills.

*Elymus arenarius*, sand-hills about Newbie.

*Scabiosa succisa*, abundant in the county, where *S. arvensis* is nearly  
wanting.

*Alchemilla alpina*, Moffat range.

*Lithospermum arvense*, sparingly in cultivated fields.

*Lysimachia vulgaris*, a single patch of this plant grows by the side of  
the Castle loch, Lochmaben, half-way between the church and turn of  
road.

*Jobelia dortmanna*, Lochmaben Lochs.

*Verbascum thapsus*, in fields near Dumfries.

*Glaux maritima*, shore and Newbie, &c. common.

*Vinca minor*, woods Dalswinton apparently wild; *Halleatha*, introduced.

*Eryngium maritimum*, shore at Newbie.

*Myrrhis odorata*, about Shaw.—Jardine-hall, but not common.

*Sium angustifolium*, repens, inundatum, Lochmaben lochs.

*Sium verticillatum*, edges of Castle loch, Lochmaben.

*Sambucus ebulus*, at Turnmoor mill, Dryfesdale.

*Juncus triglumis* and *castaneus*, Moffat range.

*Oxyria reniformis*, ditto.

*Tofieldia palustris*, ditto, not common.

*Triglochin maritimum*, shore at Newbie.

*Alisma ranunculoides*, Lochmaben lochs.

*Epilobium Alpinum*, Moffat range, and hills at the head of Dryfe Water.

*Vaccinium Vitis-Idea*, Raehill wood.

*Erica tetralix*, (white flower,) Corncockle muir.

*Acer campestre*, Spedlings, Raehills wood (planted.)

*Polygonum viviparum*, Moffat range.

\* Contributed by Sir William Jardine, Bart.

- Andromeda polifolia*, abundant in all the lower mosses.  
*Arbutus uva-ursi*, Moffat range.  
*Pyrola secunda*, Bald Crag, growing on the face of the rock.  
*Saxifraga stellaris*, *oppositifolia*, *azoides*, *hypnoides*, Moffat range.  
*Sedum telephium*, about Westerhall, by the road sides.  
 ——— acre, on old walls near Dumfries, not common.  
*Lychnis viscaria*, Moffat range.  
*Cerastium alpinum*, do.  
*Rubus chamæmorus*, Moffat hills, particularly about Loch Skene.  
*Chelidonium majus*, Halleaths, common.  
*Nymphæa alba*, abundant in Lochmaben Lochs.  
*Nuphar lutea*, do. do.  
*Aquilegia vulgaris*, on the banks of Gairple Burn, a stream running into the Evan above Beatoch, wild, and one of the few habitats in Scotland.  
*Thalictrum alpinum*, Moffat range.  
*Origanum vulgare*, woods and edges of plantations about Westerhall.  
*Cochlearia Greenlandica*? Moffat range.  
*Serratula alpina*, Moffat range, not common.  
*Bidens tripartita*, sparingly in the field at south end of Castle Loch, Lochmaben.  
 ——— *cernua*, about Lochmaben Lochs.  
*Aster tripolium*, shore, and edges of pools and ditches on both sides of the mouth of the Annan.  
*Listera cordata*, Moffat range.  
*Typha latifolia* and *angustifolia*, Lochmaben lochs; the former also at Murder Loch.  
*Rhodiola rosea*, steep rocks on the Moffat range; very abundant at Grey Mare's Tail.  
*Juniperus communis*, Juniper Hill, above Craigiellands, and the hill above Beatoch.  
*Botrychium lunaria*, lower part of Corncockle moor.  
*Osmunda regalis*, Lochar moss.  
*Lycopodium clavatum*, Corncockle moor, subalpine moors, and Moffat range.  
 ——— *selago*, do.  
 ——— *selaginoides*, Bald Crag and Moffat range.  
 ——— *anotinum*, Moffat range.  
*Polypodium phegopteris*, *dryopteris*, Rae hills, Bald Cragg, and subalpine woody stations.  
 ——— *lobatum*, do.  
 ——— *aculeatum*, Moffat range.  
*Asplenium viride* do.  
*Pteris crista*, abundant on do.  
*Cyathea fragilis*, Bald Crag, abundant.  
*Hymenophyllum Wilsonii*, rocks opposite Moffat Well, Gairple burn, and most of the mountain streamlets in the Moffat range, covering large patches.

*Rarer Plants occurring in the Shore of the Solway Frith, from the Carse to the Water of Orr,—Kirkcudbrightshire.*

- Zostera marina*, flat rocky pools between Arbigland and Southernness.  
*Veronica scutellata*, marshy places in Merse at Southernness.  
*Ruppia maritima*, salt water pools opposite Gillfoot.  
*Phlœum arenarium*, the sand hills below Southernness and upper end of Colvend rocks.  
*Rottbollia incurvata*, shore below Southernness.  
*Radiola millegrana*, Merse below Southernness.  
*Samolus valerandi*, in the marsh places of Merse at Southernness.  
*Glaux maritima*, shore, common.  
*Sison verticillatum*, marshy places of Merse.  
*Cenanthe fistulosa*, marshes in Merse.  
*Crithmum maritimum*, (samphire,) Colvend rocks.  
*Juncus arcticus*, shore opposite Gillfoot.  
*Triglochin maritimum*, Merse.  
*Alisma ranunculoides*, marshy places in Merse.  
*Arenaria marina*, shore and rocks, abundant.  
*Lychnis viscaria*, Colvend rocks.  
*Cakile maritima*, beach below Southernness.  
*Brassica monensis*, abundant on the shore on both sides of Southernness.  
*Geranium sanguineum*, abundant below Arbigland, and between that and Gillfoot.  
*Astragalus glycyphyllus*, Colvend rocks.  
*Vicia sylvatica*, on the lower parts of Colvend rocks.  
*Sedum telephium*, Colvend rocks.  
*Schœnus nigricans*, Merse.  
*Aira aquatica*, marshes in Merse.  
*Hypericum elodes*, marshes in the Merse, abundant.  
*Carlina vulgaris*, on the Colvend rocks, common.  
*Lactuca virosa*, Colvend rocks.  
*Inula dysenterica*, about Southernness, road sides, &c.  
*Pyrethrum maritimum*, common on all the rocks.  
*Orchis bifolia*, on some banks and woods inland.  
*Satyrium viride*, very abundant on the dry Merse below the lime kilns at Southernness.  
*Listera ovata*, Arbigland woods.  
*Ophioglossum vulgatum*, in the hollows of unenclosed ground above Gillfoot, and in the hollows in Merse between Southernness and lime kiln.  
*Botrychium lunaria*, on dry ground below lime kiln, Southernness, along with *Satyrium viride*.  
*Asplenium maritimum*, and *A. adiantum nigrum*, Colvend rocks, abundant.

TABLE I. Shewing Ecclesiastical State, &amp;c. of

Parish.	Population in 1831.	Ecclesiastical State.					Schools of every description.	Par. Schoolmasters' Emolument.	
		Families belonging to Estab. Church.	Individuals belonging to Estab. Church.	Families of Dissenters & Seceders.	Individuals of Dissenters, Seced. &c.	Amount of Parochial Ministers' stipend.		Salary.	Fees.
Dumfries,	11606		4519		1967	L.309 0 0	39 }		
Torthorwald,	1320	224		22		281 13 4		L. 31 6 6½	L.30 0 0
Tinwald,	1220	211		20		248 1 1	{ 37 12 9 }	30 0 0	
Kirkmahoe,	1601		1550		50	150 0 0	{ 19 8 4½ }	120 0 0	
Kirkmichael,	1226		1196		30	275 0 0	{ 25 13 3 }	16 0 0	
Closeburn,	1680		1543		132	232 0 0	{ 17 0 0 }	30 0 0	
Morton,	2140	350		133		16 chalders	{ 34 4 4½ }	30 0 0	
Moffat,	2221	335				16 do.	{ 34 4 4½ }	30 0 0	
Kirkpatrick {	981	164		5		240 0 0	{ 34 4 4 }	30 0 0	
Juxta, }						220 0 0	{ 17 2 2 }	25 0 0	
Wamphray,	580	86		14		253 13 4	{ 34 4 4 }	27 0 0	
Johnstone,	1234	191		27		165 13 1	{ 34 5 0 }	45 0 0	
Applegarth,	943	129		23		280 0 0	{ 17 2 6 }	20 0 0	
Tundergarth,	530					56, & 6 ch.	{ 34 4 4 }	40 0 0	
St Mungo,	791			30		174 16 0	{ 34 4 4 }	45 0 0	
Ruthwell,	1216			6		262 18 10	{ 8 11 1 }	30 0 0	
Cummertrees,	1407	247		21		150 0 0	{ 30 0 0 }	25 0 0	
Dornock,	752	145		10		14 chalders	{ 34 4 2 }	25 0 0	
Graitney,	1909	310		50		16 chalders	{ 25 0 0 }	25 0 0	
Kirkpatrick {	1666	290		13		210 0 0	{ 25 13 3 }	59 0 0	
Fleming, }						250 0 0	{ 25 13 3 }	12 0 0	
Hoddam,	1582	272		40		18 chalders	{ 35 0 0 }	16 0 0	
Sanquhar,	3268	551		164		15 chalders	{ 34 4 4 }	30 0 0	
Kirkconnel,	1111	222		9		240 0 0	{ 30 1 6 }	20 0 0	
Durisdeer,	1488	206		85		280 0 0	{ 24 12 0 }	54 0 0	
Glencairn,	2068	330		111		162 12 0	{ 34 4 4 }	48 0 0	
Dunscore,	1488	250		41		177 0 0	{ 34 4 4 }	48 0 0	
Caerlaverock,	1271			129		220 0 0	{ 34 4 4 }	20 0 0	
Middlebie,	2107	232		3		58 6 0	{ 34 4 3 }	20 0 0	
Dalton,	730	124				& 8 chalders	{ 34 4 4 }	10 0 0	
Lochmaben,	2795			148		18 do	{ 34 4 4 }	21 0 0	
Eskdalemuir,	650			17		16 do	{ 34 4 4 }	11 0 0	
Langholm,	2676			400		14 do	{ 34 4 4 }	10 0 0	
Westerkirk,	642			16		15 do	{ 34 4 4 }	10 0 0	
Ewes,	335			14		15 do	{ 25 13 5 }	10 0 0	
Mousewald,	786	140		10		198 18 6	{ 34 4 4 }	60 0 0	
Dryfesdale,	2283					229 8 4	{ 25 13 4 }	4 0 0	
Keir,	1804	187		22		16 chalders	{ 25 13 4 }	30 0 0	
Tynron,	493	79		28		16 do	{ 29 6 6 }	16 0 0	
Canonbie,	2997	516		68		210 0 0	{ 22 0 0 }	9 0 0	
Penpont,	1232	110		148		19 chalders	{ 41 16 6 }	15 0 0	
Annan,	5033			35		16 do	{ 27 (v. text) }	15 0 0	
Hutton,	860	95		36		181 0 0	{ 51 0 0 }	114 0 0	
Holywood,	1066	161		36					

Parishes in the County of Dumfries.

Total.	Savings Banks.		Annual amount of Contributions for the Poor.				
	Number.	Amount yearly invested.	Amount yearly withdrawn.	From assessment.	From Church collections.	From alms, legacies, &c.	Total.
	1	L.3997	L.3293	...	L.205 0 0		L. 1500 0 0
L. 61 6 6 $\frac{1}{2}$		...	...	...	39 0 0	L. 19 0 0	58 0 0
87 1 1 $\frac{1}{2}$		...	...	...	26 0 0	10 0 0	36 0 0
170 13 9 $\frac{1}{2}$		...	...	...	30 0 0	...	60 0 0
50 4 4 $\frac{1}{2}$		...	...	...	52 0 0	9 0 0	35 3 10 $\frac{1}{2}$
64 4 4 $\frac{1}{2}$		...	...	...	40 0 0	...	71 0 0
		...	...	L. 55 0 0	50 0 0	...	125 0 0
81 6 6		...	...	...	30 0 0	...	52 0 0
59 0 0		...	...	...	12 0 0	...	...
61 4 4		...	...	...	...	...	65 0 0
96 7 6		...	...	...	26 2 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	44 2 8 $\frac{1}{2}$
54 4 4		...	...	...	13 0 0	...	...
74 4 4		...	...	...	22 0 0	...	...
87 15 6	1	L. 600	L. 400	...	25 0 0	...	54 0 0
60 0 0		...	...	...	28 0 0	...	...
59 4 2		...	...	68 0 0	11 0 0	...	77 0 0
75 0 0		...	...	...	...	...	80 0 0
110 6 6	1	L. 80	L. 35	110 0 0	30 0 0	...	140 0 0
47 0 0		...	...	...	35 0 0	23 0 0	60 0 0
49 4 4	1	L.1175	L.1158	...	35 0 0	35 0 0	70 0 0
55 0 0		...	...	...	18 0 0	...	...
74 13 6		...	...	...	24 0 0	16 0 0	40 0 0
105 6 8		...	...	...	45 0 0	...	105 0 0
		...	...	...	44 0 0	21 0 0	65 0 0
		...	...	...	See text.	...	...
82 0 0		...	...	100 0 0	22 0 0	...	122 0 0
54 4 3		...	...	...	25 0 0	...	...
		...	...	...	41 0 0	...	81 10 0
44 4 4		...	...	64 0 0	20 8 3	...	See text
		...	...	320 0 0	...	...	400 0 0
		...	...	...	See text	...	...
55 4 4		...	...	41 10 0	5 0 0	...	...
45 4 4		...	...	35 0 0	13 0 0	...	48 0 0
35 13 5		...	...	...	40 0 0	25 0 0	...
		...	...	...	29 2 0	...	...
111 6 8		...	...	...	...	...	50 0 0
29 13 4		...	...	...	...	...	457 15 8
61 6 7	1	...	...	408 9 8	27 5 0	...	...
76 6 6		...	...	...	16 0 0	...	59 8 0
		...	...	...	12 0 0	...	See text.
165 0 0		...	...	...	See text.	...	35 17 0

### EXPLANATION OF THE FOREGOING TABLE.

---

The parochial teachers' emoluments additional to salary and fees are not included in the preceding table.

**Dumfries.**—The individuals stated as belonging to the several religious denominations are examinable individuals, and the Dissenting individuals include 442 Roman Catholics.

**Torthorwald.**—There are also in this parish 6 Roman Catholic families. The parochial teacher has also the interest of a mortification of L. 160.

**Tinwald.**—There are also 2 families of Roman Catholics. The L. 10 here stated for alms is stated conjecturally as the interest of a mortification of L. 300.

**Kirkmahoe.**—The stipend here stated is exclusive of an allowance for communion elements. This allowance, where it is made, is not stated under the other parishes. There is a sum of L. 665 mortified for the poor.

**Cloesburn.**—There are also 5 individuals Roman Catholics. The arrangement adopted in lieu of the provision for a parish school is explained in the account of the parish.

**Tundergarth.**—Very few Dissenters in the parish.

**St Mungo.**—There are also 4 individuals Roman Catholics, and 4 Episcopalians.

**Glencairn.**—The parochial salary is divided among three masters.

**Dunscore.**—The parochial salary is divided among three masters,—their other emoluments stated in the text.

**Caerlaverock.**—A few individuals are Dissenters. The parochial teacher has also L. 40 per annum from bequest.

**Middlebie.**—The parochial salary is divided betwixt two teachers.

**Keir.**—There are also 3 families Roman Catholics.

**Holywood.**—There are also 10 Roman Catholic families.

TABLE II. Shewing Extent, &amp;c. of Parishes in County of Dumfries.

Parish.	Acres in Parish.	Acres cultivated or occasionally in tillage.	Acres uncultivated.	Acres supposed capable of cultivation with profit.	Acres under wood.
Dumfries, .	9280	7980	1350	1300	318
Torthorwald, .	5600	2850		200	5
Tinwald, .	9405	7758	1647	1500	119
Kirkmahoe, .	12000	8000	4000	200	500
Kirkmichael, .	17070	6700	10870		350
Closeburn, .		10111	18578		1500
Morton, .	9000	2600	6400	1200	580
Moffat, .	38400	3750	34650		450
Kirkpatrick-Juxta, .	21000	7000	14000	2000	230
Wamphray, .	12000	3000	9000	1500	400
Johnstone, .		5500		750	1500
Applegarth, .	11500	7392	3777		331
Tundergarth, .		2829	7643	230	1591 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
St Mungo, .	5000	4800	700	200	300
Ruthwell, .	8420	5500	2920	1000	520
Cummertrees, .	7800	6000	1800	300	1000
Dornock, .	3880	2890	990	200	40
Graitney, .	10360	10000	360	100	60
Kirkpat.-Fleming, .	11575	8061	3514	1400	605
Hoddam, .	5727	5143	584		50
Sanquhar, .	33765	5583	28182	1500	735
Kirkconnell, .	26489	6441	20048		178
Durisddeer, .	19450	7896	11554		2000
Glencairn, .	33600	7000	26600	1000	800
Dunscore, .	11640	5300	6340		440
Caerlaverock, .	5813	5320	493		126
Middlebie, .	24900	5367	19533	1895	282
Dalton, .	6753	6153	600	200	517
Lochmaben, .	10750	9000	1750		90
Eakdalemuir, .	42250	482	41768		
Langholm, .	14320	1894	12426		420
Westerkirk, .	27307	1560	25747		200
Ewes, .	24469	1100	23369		200
Mousewald, .	4725	3317	1408	250	150
Dryfesdale, .	11000	10400	600	240	250
Keir, .		2700			538
Tynron, .	11795	2455	9340		405
Canonbie, .	22500	16000	6500		1000
Penpont, .					
Annan, .	11000	10000	1000		
Hutton, .	23000	3000	20000		100
Holywood, .	8960	7520	1440		540

N. B.—The acres uncultivated include those capable of cultivation and those under wood.

Dumfries.—Acres capable of cultivation here include those, or a portion of those, under wood.

Torthorwald.—The acres capable of cultivation do not include Lochar Moss.

Hoddam, Mousewald, Keir, and Canonbie.—Acres here stated are Scotch.





## INDEX

Academy, Dumfries, 23  
 Ae, river, 40  
 Agriculture and rural economy, 17, 32, 45, 61, 72, 84, 93, 115, 128, 144, 160, 186, 199, 212, 232, 251, 258, 268, 282, 293, 307, 317, 328, 332, 344, 367, 374, 389, 407, 422, 434, 439, 446, 454, 468, 477, 492, 510, 527, 539, 561  
 Annan, river, 103, 125, 205, 290, 372—  
 Burgh, 516, 533—Castle, 525—Port, 529—parish of, 516  
 Annan water, 103  
 Antimony mine, 430  
 Antiquities, 10, 44, 59, 69, 82, 95, 114, 127, 142, 157, 183, 197, 209, 221, 248, 257, 265, 278, 292, 305, 316, 327, 331, 339, 351, 365, 373, 383, 401, 420, 432, 438, 444, 453, 467, 475, 488, 502, 525, 558  
 Apiary, 580  
 Applegarth and Sibbaldie, united parishes of, 170  
 Ardent spirits, consumption thereof, 550  
 Armour, ancient, 249; 292, 453  
 Armstrong, Johnnie of Gilknockie, 421, 468, 489  
 Assessment for poor, 271  
 Associations, farming, 19, 117, 164  
 Aurora-borealis, 2, 54  
 Bacon, curing of, 150, 163  
 Balfour, Edward, 111, 523  
 Barley, culture of, 572  
 Barjarg, 466  
 Barrows, 59, 96, 97, 157  
 Basket-making, see Manufactures  
 Beggars, vagrant, 547  
 Begging, public, 135, 574  
 Bell, Benjamin, 488  
 Bells of Middlebie, 364  
 Birrens, camp at, 365  
 Birrens or camps, 197  
 Blackadder, his preaching at Sundaywell, 342  
 Blacklock, Dr Thomas, 524  
 Blackwood, 466  
 Boat dug out of moss, 96  
 Bogrie, tower, 341  
 Border feuds, &c. 264, 278, 523  
 Botany, 41, 55, 109, 140, 154, 379, 418, 413, 444, 464, 474, 521, 556

DUMFRIES.

Boyd, Mr, banker, 113  
 Branks, an instrument of punishment, 421  
 Breweries, see Manufactures.  
 Broomholm mansion-house, 421  
 Broomrig mansion-house, 560  
 Brown, a clergyman in Wamphray, 141  
 Bruce, King Robert, 248, 279, 362, 474, 481, 523  
 Brydekirk village, 526—church, 535  
 Buildings, public, in Dumfries, 14  
 Burns, Robert, poet, 6, 13, 219  
 Burnswark hill, 290, 292, 365  
 Caerlaverock castle, 351—parish of, 349  
 Cairns, 83, 198, 316  
 Cairn water, 331, 337, 475  
 Cameronians, 65, 320, 412, 435  
 Cample river, 3  
 Camps, 44, 71, 96, 127, 142, 266, 327—  
 Range castle, 373, 386, 401, 432, 445, 453  
 Canal; project of, 66—Projected one betwixt Solway and Castle of Lochmaben, 397  
 Canoes found, 350  
 Canonbie, parish of, 483  
 Carnaloch, 57  
 Carpet manufactory, 309  
 Carron river, 323  
 Cascades, 68—Greymare's tail, 78, 107, 140, 398  
 Castles, Castledykes, 10—Castle of the Maxwells, 11—Thortherwald, 29—Tinwald, 44—Cumin's Castle at Dalswinton, 59—Closeburn, 82—Morton, 93, 96—Achincnas, 127—Lochwood, 157  
 Hoddam, 292—ancient one, 363—  
 Barntaloch, 420—Wauchope, 420, 523, 525.  
 Castlefairn water, 331  
 Castlemilk mansion-house 211  
 Chapels connected with Established Church, 311—Dissenting or meeting-houses, 14, 23, 65, 100, 118, 147, 165, 270, 295, 311, 334, 340, 369, 394, 426, 457, 513  
 Charteris, Sir Thomas, 43  
 Charteris, Sir John, 57  
 Cholera, 6, 169  
 Church lands, 342

R R

- Churches and chapels connected with the establishment, 22, 35, 48, 64, 75, 88, 100, 118, 131, 146, 165, 192, 200, 214, 235, 253, 260, 270, 286, 295, 311, 320, 328, 334, 346, 356, 369, 375, 393, 412, 426, 434, 440, 447, 456, 470, 476, 496, 512, 532, 544, 564
- Clapperton, Hugh, 524
- Closeburn, parish of, 77
- Cluden river, 3, 554—mills, 560
- Coal, 206, 219, 277, 298, 315, 371, 417, 486, 501, 520
- Coffins, stone, 475
- Coins, 12, 71, 158, 210, 249, 264, 279, 292, 350, 386, 404, 420, 490
- Corrie, Daniel, Esq. Archdeacon of Calcutta, 58
- Comyn, the Red, 5, 60
- Corrie river, 537
- Cottages, their condition, 551
- Cotton weavers, 285, 309
- Cowhill house, 560
- Craigdarroch water, 331—mansion-house, 332
- Crawick-mill village, 310
- Crichton, Dr. of Friarscarse,—large bequest by him, 341
- Crichton, Mr. Robert, of Elliock, 306
- Crichton, Andrew, 58
- Crosses, stone, 183, 331
- Cummertrees, parish of, 244
- Cunningham, Allan, 58
- Currency, observations on the, 129
- Currie, Dr. author of *Life of Burns*, 365
- Customs, raising money for the poor by a *drinking*, 241—*Handfasting*, 404
- Dalawinton, estate of, 56
- Dalton, parish of, 371
- Dalwhat water, 331
- De Moreville, castle erected by him in Morton, 94—account of the family, 94
- Deer, red-deer, roe-deer, 154
- Dispensaries, Dumfries, 25
- Dissenters in Dumfries-shire, 575
- Distilleries, 66, 345
- Dobie, Janet, her legacy for a school, 347
- Domestic animals, 577
- Dornock, parish of, 256
- Douglas of Dalveen, and Douglas of Cashogle, families of, 327
- Douglas, Sir Archibald, his surprisal of Baliol at Moffat, 111
- Douglas, family of, 95
- Dowloch, legend of, 504
- Druids, 2—Druidical fane, ruins of Morton, 96—Druidical circle, 142, 404—remains, 198—ruins of a temple, 267, 432, 553, 559
- Drumlanrig Castle, 273—gardens, 506
- Dryfe river, 172, 451, 452
- Dryfesdale, parish of, 451
- Dumfries burgh, 22—parish of, 1
- Dumfries-shire,—its chief divisions, general observations, 567—geology, 568—manufactures, 569—agriculture, 570—police, 577
- Dumgree, 133
- Duncow, estate of, 57
- Dunreggan village, 336
- Dunscore village, 336—parish of, 336
- Durisdcer, parish of, 323
- Ecclefechan village, 289, 294
- Education, statistics of, 23, 49, 65, 75, 88, 100, 118, 132, 146, 166, 193, 201, 214, 236, 254, 260, 270, 287, 296, 312, 321, 329, 335, 347, 358, 369, 376, 395, 413, 426, 435, 440, 448, 457, 471, 481, 496, 515, 533, 545, 566
- Embanking, 190, 409
- Emigration, 60, 552
- Enterkin water, 323
- Fak, White and Black rivers, 398, 417, 430, 484
- Eakdalemuir pen, 398—parish of, 398
- Ewes water, 437—parish of, 437
- Farms, led, 72
- Fead, General, 44
- Fisheries, 18—singular mode of catching salmon, 60—remarks on the regulations respecting salmon fisheries, 93—mode of fishing in the Solway, &c. 259, 469, 528, 554, 577
- Fleemings, family of, 279
- Forts, remains of, 59, 60, 95, 371, 453, 538
- Fossil organic remains, 247, 364
- Frazer, Luke, 58
- Freestone, 3, 54, 86, 162
- Friar's Vennel, Dumfries, 11
- Friendly Societies, remarks on their advantages, 238, 427
- Funeral service, 242, 509, 539
- Gallow's Flat, 96
- Galt, Rev. Mr. minister of Graitney, 267
- Games, cock-fights, 272
- Geology and mineralogy, 3, 30, 35, 40, 54, 68, 79, 107, 125, 140, 152, 172, 195, 205, 219, 246, 277, 290, 298, 315, 338, 350, 363, 371, 379, 399, 417, 439, 437, 443, 453, 462, 474, 486, 519, 555
- Gibson, Mr. John, his donation for a school, 479
- Glencaple quay, 352
- Glencairn, parish of, 330
- Glenmarlin pool, 502
- Glenquhargan craig, 500
- Gorgetts, 210
- Graham, Mr. James, his bequest for a school, 545
- Graitney, parish of, 262
- Grave-stones, 210, 257, 266
- Gretna village, 269—irregular marriages, 273
- Gribton house, 560
- Grierson of Lag, family of, 339, 341—Grierson, Mr. his mortification for schools, 347

- Hallguards, seat of ancient castle, 292  
Halliday, Sir Andrew, 58  
Halliday, Dr Matthew, 156  
Hapland water, 323  
Harbour, Dumfries, 22  
Hartstongue, a rare species of plant, 364  
Helen of Kirkconnel Lee, 279, 365  
Herling, observations on its identity with salmon, 247-8  
Hills. Wardlaw (Guard Hill)—Auchengeith Hill, 53—Holehouse, 67—Woodhill, 67—Knock-craig, 67—Kirk-michael Fell, 68—Queensberry, 77—Grange Fell and Crieve, 195—White Woolen, 451, 461, 473, 500  
Hoddam Castle, 250—parish of, 289  
Holywood, parish of, 553—patronage of the parish, 557—Abbey, 558—Tower, 557—Druidical temple, 559—cup, 559—Hospital, 559  
Hook mansion-house, 184  
Hopetoun, John Earl of, 113  
Horticultural Society, Dumfries and Galloway, 20  
Hunter, Dr John, St Andrews, 82  
Hunter of Balagan, family of, 326  
Husbandry, 17—change of, 189  
Hutton, Dr John, physician to Queen Anne, 350—his bequest for schools, 358  
Hutton and Corrie, united parishes of, 537  
Improvements, 85, 119, 130, 160, 322, 562  
Infirmery, Dumfries, 25  
Insects. Aphides, 41  
Iron, 54, 68, 290  
Irvine, Mr Charles, surgeon, 558  
Irvine, John, Esq. of Newby, M. P. 365  
Irvine, Dr Ralph, 419  
Irving, Dr David, 419  
Irving, Rev. Edward, 524  
Jardine, George, Professor of Logic, 316  
Jardine Hall, 184  
Johnstone, Dr George Milligan, 112  
Johnstone, parish of, 151  
Johnstone, Sir James, 432  
Johnstones of Tundergarth, fight betwixt them and Johnstones of Lockerbie, 196  
Johnstones of Lochwood and of Annandale, family of, 111—combat betwixt the Johnstones and Maxwells, 158  
Keir, parish of, 460  
Kinnel Water, 152  
Kettle found, 96  
Kirkconnel, parish of, 314—patronage thereof, 320  
Kirkmahoe, parish of, 53  
Kirkmichael, parish of, 67  
Kirkpatrick-Fleming, parish of, 274  
Kirkpatrick-Juxta, parish of, 164  
Kirkpatrick of Closeburn, family of, 80, 465  
Kirkpatricks of Allisland and Friar's Carse, family of, 340, 341  
Kirks of Bogrie, family of, 339  
Kirtle stream, 263, 276  
Langholm, burgh, 418—castle, 420—lodge, 421—parish of, 416  
Lead, 152, 196, 207, 299, 334, 417, 474, 501, 555  
Libraries. 24, 65, 101, 115, 166, 215, 237, 260, 312, 347, 396, 413, 427, 435, 497  
Liddle river, 484  
Lime quarry, 79, 87—particular mode of working lime quarries, 6, 87, 131, 208, 219, 246, 277, 290, 304, 315, 363, 418, 443, 462, 486, 520, 555  
Little, Colonel John, 419  
Live-stock, breeds of, 17, 33  
Lochar Moss, see Mosses  
Lochar River, 40, 220, 443  
Lochfell Hill, 398  
Lochmaben Castle, 383—barony, 387—burgh, 391—parish of, 377  
Lochs. Black and Sand Lochs, 3—"Murder Loch," 40, 68—Loch-skeen, 107, 379, 462  
Lochurr river, 330  
Lockerbie town, 455—Lammas fair, 456  
Maarburn water, 323  
Maiden Bower Craigs, 2  
M'Kinnel, Robert, Esq. of M'Murdoston, his legacy for behoof of a school, 347  
Malcolm, Sir John, 432  
Mansfield, Earl of, anecdote of his early youth, 219—his family, 220  
Mansion houses, 44  
Manufactures, of hats and stockings, checked cottons, 18—breweries, 19—basket-making, 19—clogs, 19—shoes, 19, 34, 117—carpet manufactory, 309—cloth, 366—cotton, 368—cotton, &c. 424—yarn, 269, 528, 569  
Markets, cattle, 20—horse, 21—hare-skins, 21  
Marl-pits, 209, 247, 430  
Marriages, irregular, 272  
Maxwell, Captain George, R. N. 419  
Maxwell, Mr, author of an Essay on Tune, 419  
Maxwellton mansion house, 332  
Mechanics' Institution, 24  
Megget water, 431  
Meikle, William Julius, translator of the Lusiad, 419  
Mein river, 290  
Menteath, Earls of, Closeburn, 82  
Menzies of Enoch, family of, 327  
Meteorology and Climate, 2, 30, 54, 68, 78, 92, 104, 124, 138, 152, 171, 204, 219, 245, 263, 275, 337, 399, 416, 437, 443, 461, 484, 518, 555  
Middlebie, parish of, 363  
Miller, Patrick, Esq. of Dalswinton, 58  
Milk, river, 204, 290  
Mills. Carding, corn, and barley-mills, 310

- Milnhead, estate of, 57  
 Mineral springs. Crichton's well, &c. 3  
 —well, 315  
 Minnyhive village, 334-36  
 Moffat, its height above the sea, 103—  
 Moffat water, 103—parish of, 102  
 Moffat, Dr, author of a Treatise on Foods,  
 112  
 Mole-catching, 409  
 Monastery for Franciscan friars, 5, 10  
 Monument to the Rev. James Renwick,  
 331, 525  
 Monuments—their number and value in  
 St Michael's churchyard, 14—monu-  
 ment to Duke of Queensberry, 14  
 Morton, parish of, 91  
 Morton, Earl of, his connection with pa-  
 rish of Morton, 95  
 Mosses. Lochar moss, 3, 4, 30, 220—  
 burning thereof, 4—improvements  
 thereon, 17, 28, 37, 40, 220—composi-  
 tion of, 153  
 Mounds or moats. Moat Brae, Kirkland  
 moat, 11—Trohoughton moat, 12—  
 50, 114, 127, 183—Rockhall, 385—  
 ghost-story, 385  
 Mounsey, Dr James, 44  
 Mountains. Hartfell group, their height,  
 103—Hopes, 104, 137  
 Mount Annan mansion-house, 528  
 Mouswald, parish of, 442  
 Multurea, 130, 573  
 Murray, Colonel Matthew, 419  
 Murray, Mr, improver of the chronome-  
 ter, 113  
 Navigation, Nith, 19—steam-boats, 20,  
 260  
 Newton Airs house, 560  
 Newspapers, Dumfries, 24  
 New Wark, ruins of, 11  
 Nith river, 55, 59, 554  
 Obelisks, 96, 502  
 Orchards, 60, 488  
 Organic remains, 247, 364  
 Parr fish, 177, 381  
 Pasley, Colonel C. 419  
 Pasley, John, Esq. merchant, 419  
 Pasley, Admiral Sir Thomas, 419  
 Paterson, who planned Darien scheme, 44  
 Penpont, parish of, 499  
 Petrie, Dr Robert, 488  
 Petrie, Mr William, 488  
 Petrifications, 462  
 Plantations, 43, 55, 84, 110, 144, 160,  
 202  
 Plants, 42, 173, 174  
 Poaching, 10, 143, 251  
 Poor, management of the, 24, 26, 36, 50,  
 76, 88, 101, 119, 132, 148, 167, 193,  
 201, 215, 240, 254, 260, 271, 287, 296,  
 313, 321, 329, 335, 347, 358, 370, 376,  
 396, 413, 436, 441, 449, 457, 471, 497,  
 515, 533, 545, 566  
 Poor-houses, 24, 441  
 Population returns, 15, 32, 45, 60, 71, 83,  
 97, 114, 127, 142, 159, 184, 198, 211,  
 229, 250, 257, 267, 281, 293, 306, 316,  
 327, 332, 343, 352, 366, 374, 388, 405,  
 433, 438, 445, 454, 468, 478, 491, 508,  
 527, 538, 560  
 Population, character of the, 16, 45, 60,  
 84, 115, 143, 159, 185, 198, 211, 231,  
 251, 281, 293, 317, 353, 388, 407, 433,  
 438, 491, 509, 527, 538, 560  
 Population returns to government, source  
 of error therein, 230  
 Pork. See Trade.  
 Portract house, 560  
 Prince Charles Edward, passage of part of  
 his army through Moffat, 11  
 Priory in Canonbie, 490  
 Prisons, 27  
 Prognostics of weather. "Carlisle Sky,"  
 &c. 2, 53, 54, 106, 263, 275, 461  
 Pulteney, Mr, 432  
 Quarries, 18—freestone, 162—freestone  
 and limestone, 252, 283, 284, 285—  
 freestone, 308, 333, 350, 379, 469,  
 501  
 Queensberry, family of, 324  
 Races, Dumfries, 16  
 Raehills estate, 67; mansion-house, 133  
 Rain of salt water, 204  
 Rammerscales mansion-house, 374  
 Range Castle camp, 373  
 Ravine, 78  
 Rebellion 1745, Dumfries occupied by  
 rebels, 6  
 Redpatrick, old church, 260  
 Relics, ancient, 386  
 Reptiles, 178  
 Richardson, James, Esq., his mortifications  
 for schools 395  
 Ring found, 96  
 Rockhall mount or moat, 385. See  
 Mounds—mansion-house, 445  
 Rogerson, Dr, of Russia, 113, 141, 156  
 Roman road, 59, 69, 114, 142, 184, 197,  
 327, 420, 453, 454, 475  
 Roman station, 95, 183, 339, 402—par-  
 ticular description of encampment, 454,  
 490, 522  
 Rosyth family, 324  
 Runic monument, detailed description and  
 engraving of, 221  
 Russell, Dr, author of the History of Mo-  
 dern Europe, 488  
 Ruthwell village, 234—parish of, 218  
 Sabbath, strict observance of it in former  
 times, 210  
 Sabbath schools, remarks thereon, 237  
 Sacro Bosco, Joannes de, 557  
 Salmon, curious mode of killing, 268  
 Salt, making thereof by filtration of sea  
 sand, 234  
 Sanquhar burgh, 305—old castle, 305—  
 parish of, 297—Lords of Sanquhar, 306  
 —town, 310

- Sark stream, 263  
 Savings' banks, 26, 36, 59, 238, 287, 313, 497  
 Scaur river, 3, 473, 501  
 School, Wallace's, endowed in Closeburn, 88—general observations on parish schools, 574  
 Scott of Branzholm, tradition of his distributing feu-rights among his relations, &c. 401  
 Shells, 247  
 Shinnel river, 473  
 Shipping, 529  
 Sibbens distemper, 3  
 Siller gun, custom of shooting for, 16  
 Skeleton, 59  
 Smuggling, 265, 272  
 Snow storm, 139—disposal of sheep in snow storm, 410—destruction of sheep, 414  
 Societies for religious purposes, 23, 132—farming, 428—Eskdale and Liddesdale pastoral, 498  
 Solway Frith, 246, 262, 356, 518  
 Spedlin's Tower, 385  
 Springkell mansion-house, 280  
 Springs, 78—chalybeate, 92—Moffat Well and Hartfell Spa, 106, 125—Saints' Well, 205, 219, 246, 256, 263, 275, 378, 443, 452, 461, 485, 519  
 St Christopher's Chapel, Dumfries, 11  
 St Connel, 316  
 Steam-boat. See Navigation.  
 Stennis water, 430  
 St Mungo, tradition as to situation of the church, 214—parish of, 203  
 Stones, monumental, 467  
 Stuart, Sir Robert, 324  
 Sundaywell Tower, 341  
 Smearing, ingredients used for, 423  
 Swordwell, battle fought there, 257, 526  
 Teinds, 575  
 Telford, Thomas, Esq. 432  
 Thornhill village, 91—improvements in, 99, 100  
 Tibbers Castle, 503  
 Timber, see Trade  
 Tinwald and Traillfat, united parishes of, 39  
 Tobacco, see Trade  
 Torthorwald, parish of, 29  
 Towers, Kirkmichael, 69—Cornal, 114—Tower of Repentance, 250—sites of old towers, 265—tower of Blacket House, 366—Holmains, 373—towers, remains of, 444—tower, 455—tower of Hollows, 489—Holywood, 559  
 Trade. Pork, 19—tobacco, 19—timber, 19, 529  
 Tradition regarding a stream in parish of Penpont, 502  
 Trees. Ash, oak, beeches, and chesnut, their measurement, 55, 56, 96, 156, 175, 278, 464  
 Tumuli, 198, 210, 331, 445, 453  
 Tundergarth, parish of, 195  
 Tynron, parish of, 473  
 Urns, 59, 83, 210, 316  
 Valleys. Closeburn, 77—Annan, 205—Vale of the Milk, 205  
 Vault, arched, 163  
 Vegetable remains, 247  
 Vendace fish, 380  
 Veitch, the Rev. Wm. p. 6.  
 Villages. Collin, Rowcan, Torthorwald, 32—Thornhill, 91—Waterbeck, Eaglesfield, and Kirtlebridge, 368.  
 Volunteers, 134  
 Walker, Professor, 113  
 Wallace, John, school endowed by him in Closeburn, 88  
 Wallace, Sir William, his capture of the Castle of Lochmaben, 69—his feat at Tibbers Castle, 504  
 Wamphray, parish of, 137  
 Wanlockhead lead mines, 299—village 310  
 Warmanbie mansion-house, 526  
 Waterfalls, 54  
 Welsh, John, son-in-law to John Knox, 349  
 Westerhall mansion-house, 431  
 Westerkirk, parish of, 429  
 Whiteford, Bishop of Brechin, 112  
 Wilson, Mr James, his bequest for a school, 545  
 Witches, 421  
 Zoology, 41, 92, 108, 140, 154, 175, 220, 247, 338, 373, 379, 418, 431, 438, 443, 464, 487, 521, 556



**KIRKCUDBRIGHT.**





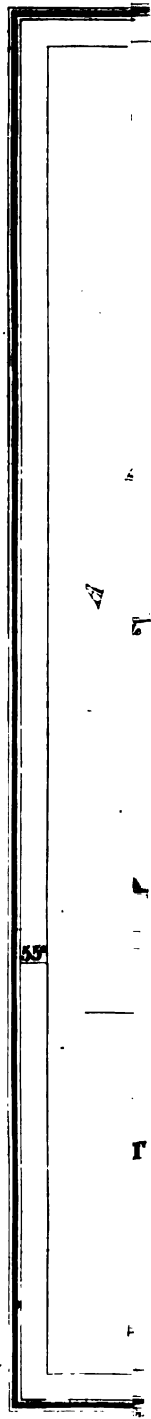
**KIRKCUDBRIGHT.**

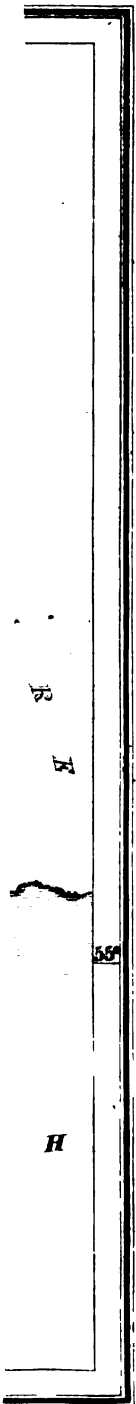


## CONTENTS.

	PAGE
ANWOTH,	373
BALMACLELLAN,	98
BALMAGHIE,	178
BORGUE,	47
BUITTLE,	200
CARSPHAIRN,	273
COLVEND AND SOUTHWICK,	215
CROSSMICHAEL,	190
DALRY,	369
GIRTHON,	291
IRONGRAY,	265
KELLS,	108
KELTON,	144
KIRKBEAN,	234
KIRKCUDBRIGHT,	1
KIRKGUNZEON,	218
KIRKMABRECK,	311
KIRKPATRICK-DURHAM,	256
KIRKPATRICK-IRONGRAY,	265
LOCHRUTTON,	286
MINNIGAFF,	117
NEW ABBEY,	244
PARTON,	282
RERRICK,	354
TERREGLES,	230
TONGLAND,	63
TROQUEER,	223
TWYNHOLM,	37
URR,	247







From the ...

# PARISH OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

PRESBYTERY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT, SYNOD OF GALLOWAY.

THE REV. JOHN M·MILLAN, MINISTER.\*

---

## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—It seems nearly certain that the name of this parish, which, at different times, has been variously spelled, was derived from the famous Saint Cuthbert. The ancient parish church stood in a burying-ground about a quarter of a-mile to the east of the town, and was dedicated to the Northumbrian Saint, as were several other places of worship, both in England and Scotland. The burying-ground still retains the name of Saint Cuthbert's church-yard. The name of the parish is but a slight change from Kirk-Cuthbert, the Church of Saint Cuthbert.

*Extent, Boundaries, &c.*—The parish consists of three ancient parishes, namely, Kirkcudbright, Galtway, and Dunrod; Kirkcudbright lies on the north, Galtway in the centre, and Dunrod on the south. The two latter parishes were annexed to Kirkcudbright about the year 1683, but their church-yards, which are still used, retain the ancient appellations of Galtway and Dunrod church-yards.

The modern parish of Kirkcudbright approaches the form of an oblong square, the west side protruding at the burgh and St Mary's Isle. It is bounded on the north by the parishes of Kelton and Rerwick; on the east, by Rerwick; on the south, by the Solway Frith; and on the west, by Borgue, Twynholm, and Tongland, the centre of the river Dee forming this boundary line till it passes St Mary's Isle, south of which it expands into an estuary. The extreme length of the parish, from the march of Kirkbride on the north to Balmae head on the south, is upwards of 8 miles, and its extreme breadth, from the east side of the estate of Gribdæ to a bend in the Dee at the town of Kirkcudbright, is about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles. Its superficial area contains about 23 square miles or upwards of 15,000 imperial acres.

\* Drawn up by the Rev. William Mackenzie, Minister of Skirling, and author of the *History of Galloway*.

*Topographical Appearances, Soil, &c.*—That part of the parish which consists of the tract of land skirting the Dee, from the lower bridge of Tongland to a little below Torrs' Lake, is for the most part level, and until it reaches a point south of the town of Kirkcudbright, opposite St Mary's Isle, is generally of a good clay, loamy, or mossy soil; but a long ridge of gravel and sand accumulated upon a clay bottom is found upon that part of this tract called the Stirling Acres, which is situated within the territories of the burgh of Kirkcudbright, close to the bank of the river. Beyond that point, the soil is of a dry gravelly nature, and the whole is capable of producing excellent crops of grain; but the Earl of Selkirk's park and the fields belonging to the burgh on the river side, are in permanent grass. In the ancient parish of Dunrod, there is a tract of land of surpassing fertility, measuring about 180 acres, called "the Milton Parks of Dunrod." These the plough has not disturbed for nearly a century, during which time they have been kept constantly in pasture for black cattle. From these parks, 120 head of three and four years' old cattle are annually sent to St Faith's market. As a proof of the nutritive qualities of the grass of these lands, it may not be out of place to state that, for a period of five years previous to Martinmas 1840, during which time they were in the hands of the proprietor, who stocked them with cattle of the pure Galloway breed, the public annual sales attracted dealers from remote parts of the country, who were glad to purchase the cattle at almost any price, in order, as the phrase is, to top their droves in the English markets. The rest, and by far the most extensive portion of the parish, is, with the exception of a considerable breadth of arable land and some meadow ground, of an undulating or broken surface, in some places hilly. This part of the parish rises gradually northward to an elevation apparently of 400 feet above the level of the sea. In what may be called the hilly part there are some moors of small extent covered partially by heather and a species of furze called catwhins. These moors are not arable, but they afford tolerable pasture for cattle and sheep. The undulating or broken surface, which is chiefly near the centre of the parish, consists partly of a succession of hillocks termed knolls, of no great height, sometimes sloping gently, sometimes rather precipitously, and forming obtuse angles with the narrow spaces of level ground which intervene. These knolls are of a dry kindly soil resting upon rotten rock, and afford excellent pasture. They are curiously belted from base to



summit by paths at distances of less than a yard, formed by cattle or sheep feeding around their sides. They yield abundant shelter as well as food, and might be subjected to the operations of the plough, were it not that their inconvenient forms would greatly increase the labour of tillage. There are other eminences of greater magnitude than these productive hillocks. They are called Drums in the language of the country, but their soil is of inferior quality. It consists of a poor shallow surface resting upon a bed of tilly clay. This forms what agriculturists call a retentive bottom; and is cold, wet, and uncongenial, and difficult of improvement. Among these varieties of surface, there exist large tracts of excellent arable land, consisting of a light friable mould upon a sharp gravelly subsoil. These are regularly ploughed and make good returns to the farmer. There are also some, although not extensive, meadows yielding annually abundant natural crops of what is called "bog hay," which is carefully stored for winter fodder. Upon the whole, though by far the larger portion of the parish may be considered arable, and in reality is subjected to a rotation of crops, yet it seems to be acknowledged that the nature of the soil is more suitable for grazing, and that the chief cause of the present large extent of tillage is the necessity for providing winter provender to the cattle, the meadow grounds being inadequate to supply a sufficiency of food for their sustenance.

*Climate, &c.*—The climate of this parish is mild. The prevailing winds are from the south and south-west. There are often heavy, and sometimes long-continued falls of rain, and, except during some rare summers, frequent showers. Indeed, the soil in general cannot bear a continuance of drought without exhibiting its injurious effects upon vegetation. Although the atmosphere, especially in the winter and spring months, is not unfrequently charged with moisture, and the town which stands but a very little above the level of the sea, on the brink of the river, is subject to fogs, yet the parish is generally healthy. Colds, rheumatism, and consumption are probably the most prevalent disorders, but typhus occasionally breaks out, though seldom with much violence.

*Rivers, Streams, &c.*—The only river connected with the parish of Kirkcudbright is the river Dee,—Deva of the Romans. This river consists of three united streams, namely, the Deugh, the Ken, and the Dee, with their several tributaries; and it is curious to remark, that the two former have been deprived of their

names in their progress to the sea, and assumed that of their confluent the Dee.\*

The Deugh, which rises in the mountains of Carsphairn, upon the borders of Ayrshire, after a long course receives into its channel, at the lowest point of the parish, the lesser stream of the Ken, which rises in the mountains, on the confines of the three counties of Dumfries, Ayr, and Kirkcudbright. But, in return for this kindly reception, the Deugh is ungratefully robbed of its name, and the united streams take the appellation of the Water of Ken, the smaller of the two. This name is preserved until the river passes Kenmure Castle in the parish of Kells, after which, expanding into a beautiful and romantic lake, it is called the Loch of Ken, till at the point of Airds, in that parish, it receives the Dee, which, issuing from Loch Dee, in the parish of Minnigaff, near the march of Kells, debouches at that parish, and nearly at right angles into the Loch of Ken. Here the Ken pays for its previous usurpation, for in its turn its title becomes extinct, and the Dee, a much smaller river, carries its name into the confluent streams, which are thenceforward denominated the Water of Dee, until lost in the waves of the Solway.

The Dee runs along the western boundary of the parish of Kirkcudbright from its north end at March-cleuch, about a mile above the old bridge of Tongland. Its course, down to the new bridge, is beautifully romantic. It rushes over a rocky bed of considerable width, and its banks are rocky, rugged, and precipitous, but on both sides mantled with natural wood. In summer, its margins are sweetly bedecked with wild flowers. To saunter here and listen to the mournful sound of the passing stream, is to visit nature in her loveliest and most interesting form. But it is in its swollen state that the Dee appears to the greatest advantage. Few objects can surpass in terrific grandeur this majestic river, when its torrent flood rushes along with appalling fury, like rolling masses of snow, forming a series of foaming cataracts, above which the sunbeams are reflected and refracted into mimic rainbows in the hovering spray. †

\* The Dee signifies the dark-coloured stream.

† Here it is thought that Montgomery, who lived at Cumpston castle, at a mile's distance, laid the scene of his poem the "Cherry and the Slae," in which the following lines are admirably descriptive of the flooded river.

"But as I looked me alane  
I saw a river rin  
Out o'er a steepie rock of stane,  
Sine lichted in a lin,

From the lower bridge of Tongland, taking the course of the river, its run is about eight miles to the Solway. The highest spring tides reach to the Lin mentioned in the preceding lines. When the tide is full, the river becomes a picturesque object from the top of Tongland hill, also from the higher grounds of Culdoch, the Borelands, and other places in the parish of Kirkcudbright. Its links and windings, from its confluence with the Tarff, at Cumpston, gave it the appearance of a fine chain of lakes sweeping round the town of Kirkcudbright and St Mary's Isle. The Dee is navigable for ships of any size as far as the town of Kirkcudbright, and for vessels of 200 tons burden to the lower bridge of Tongland. A brook, the sources of which are marshy ground, runs betwixt this parish and Rerwick from Bombie, until it falls into the Solway at the west side of Mullock-bay, where sometimes vessels of small burden lie in fine weather. This brook crosses the road to Dundrennan at Ringligget, and is there called Ringburn, probably from its occupying the line of march: it falls into the sea under the name of Mullockburn.

Another brook, dividing the parish into two not very unequal parts, rises in the north end of it, at or near the march of Kelton. It is first called Hartburn, passing southward through a farm of that name, then, after receiving a rivulet of the same size, called Gribdae-burn, it obtains the name of Bucklandburn, and is augmented on one side by a rill called Clownstanegill, and on the other by one issuing from a ravine named Glenlay Heugh. Proceeding onwards in its course, the brook at last gets the name of Grangeburn, under which it falls into the Dee to the south of St Mary's Isle.

These brooks abound with yellow trout, and in the end of autumn numbers of sea trout and herling ascend the streams in order to deposit their spawn. In the upper end of the farm of Jordieland, where it joins the contiguous farms of Culdoch and Blackstockarton, there is a loch of considerable size, stocked with a species of yellow trout equal to that of Loch Leven. They

---

With tumbling and rumbling  
Amang the rockis round,  
Devalling and falling  
Into a pit profound."

: The Dee at different times assumes very dissimilar appearances; at one time it swells into a fearful size, and at another dwindles into a scarcely perceptible rill. In 1822, it rose to a height of nearly twenty feet of solid water, and could hardly find a passage through the arches of the old bridge of Tongland, which appeared to vibrate, and in 1826 it sunk so low that its whole waters were confined within a channel of six inches in depth, and ten inches in breadth.

weigh from 1 to 3 pounds, their fish is red and of delicious flavour. They, however, try the skill and patience of the professor of the gentle art, as they are very shy and difficult to take. The parish is plentifully watered, there being many other rills and an abundant supply of springs of pure water within its bounds. In the burgh roods, chalybeate springs have been discovered, which, however, are little valued, and have not been minutely analyzed, although their taste would indicate metallic impregnation fully as strong as is possessed by some distant and celebrated fountains. The line of coast from Mullock bay on the east to Torrs' point, opposite the island of Little Ross on the west, extends about 3 miles. It is bold and rocky, except for a short space immediately below the farm house of Howell, and at a point east of that called "the Haen," *i. e.* Haven, in Balmae. Raeberry, near the east end of the line, rears a lofty head facing the sea, forming a frightful precipice, the haunt of ravens, goshawks, and other birds of prey; it is also frequented by the red-legged jackdaw.

In a precipice on the Balmae shore, to the west, and not far from the mouth of the Dee, is a remarkable natural cavern called Torrs' Cove, which extends 60 feet into the rock. The entrance is narrow, being little more than sufficient to admit a man on his hands and knees to pass into the cave, then gradually widening, it rises to a height of more than 12 feet, after which it again contracts to the farthest end. The roof is pendant with icicles of stalactite, the constant dropping from which forms on the floor stalagmite crustations. The door is said to have been originally built with stone and to have had a lintel at the top which is now buried in the ruins. The cave is thought to have been sometimes used as a hiding-place in former times.

Upon the rocks towards the sea, is found abundance of samphire.

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—The geological formation of the parish is greywacke, with occasional masses and dikes of porphyry. The latter substance is of a red colour and very compact, and exists in masses above Culdoch and upon Jordieland moor; and upon the south side of Jordieland loch there is a small rounded eminence, where its junction with the greywacke may be seen. The two rocks in this place are much co-mingled, and the appearance of both greatly changed, the greywacke being indurated and blackened, and the crystals of the porphyry much larger than usual. Red porphyry protrudes in the Barhill also, and on the farms of Boreland, Little Kirkland, and Sypland. The most of the heights in the north of the parish are capped

with it, and several dikes of it cross the Dee above Tongland bridge. Along the shore of Kirkcudbright and the Solway Frith, there are at least sixteen trap dikes. Of these, two are amygdaloid; several are compact felspar; and the remainder claystone porphyry, and felspar porphyry. These dikes are all more or less tortuous, and in two cases they send veins into the greywacke. In front of a recess in the precipitous part of the shore, a little to the north of Torrs' point, a dike of felspar porphyry shoots up into a column of about 20 feet in height, with changed greywacke clinging to its sides. Another dike of felspar porphyry contains kernel-looking masses, some of them an inch in diameter, filled with a soft white mineral resembling gypsum, surrounded by a shell of a harder mineral. In one of the dikes of amygdaloid, the kernels are uniformly largest in the centre, and gradually diminish towards the sides, till the dike becomes a greenstone, showing the effect of the more rapid cooling of the parts nearest the greywacke in lessening the size of the gas bubbles in the volcanic matter, at the time of its protruding. There are likewise seen on the shore several wide fissures, filled with angular pieces of greywacke, imbedded in a cement of felspar, or calcareous spar, forming a breccia; and adjoining a dike of felspar porphyry on the shore west of Raeberryhill, is a tortuous dike of quartz from two to five feet thick. Of these dikes the claystone porphyry are highest above the greywacke, then the felspar porphyry; and the compact felspar, is on a level with the greywacke or sinks below it. There are numerous veins of calcareous spar visible along the shore, and a few of barytes and quartz; and sometimes these are coloured red with oxide of iron.

Several trap dikes exist in the interior of the parish; one is seen in Gribdae, one crosses the road near the Brockloch, very much desintegrated, and another is visible north of Lochfergus House. On the shore of Little Balmae the grains composing the greywacke increase in size, consisting principally of angular fragments of quartz; and here, but for its argillaceous cement, it would be a gritstone. Here are also large nodules of fine grained compact greywacke imbedded in slaty strata of the same rock. The coarse greywacke is seen also protruding in front of Howell House. On Howell shore, several fossils have been found belonging to the genus *Orthoceras*. In various places along the shore, the ripple mark may be distinctly seen on the face of the strata. The whole of the greywacke on the shore is very much broken and

contorted, and varies much in dip and direction, though the former generally approaches to vertical. On Balmae shore the grey-wacke forms a good building stone; and numbers of the large boulders of granite and greenstone, scattered plentifully along the shores of the Manxman's lake, have been broken up and removed for this purpose. There are several caverns on the shore hollowed out by the waves of the Solway, but the Torrs' Cove, often called Dirk Hatterick cove, is considerably above high-water mark.\*

*Zoology.*—No very rare animals exist in the parish. The fox and the otter are occasionally met with, though the damage now done by them is by no means considerable. The badger, for some years past, has not been observed, but there are still a few of them in the district. The number of both polecats and weasles has been of late years much diminished; whilst hares and rabbits have amazingly increased. The bittern is perhaps the rarest bird to be found in the parish. Only one has been seen in it during the last thirteen years. It is solitary in its habits, and frequents marshy grounds, living upon the small animals which exist in such situations. The chough, or red-legged crow, is also seldom seen, except sometimes upon the shore. Berries and insects are its food. The only hawks that breed here are the sparrow-hawk, merlin, and kestrel. The goshawk is sometimes a visitor, and he has been known to build on the Large Ross. The buzzard annually appears, chiefly in autumn, and so does the harrier. Only one peregrine falcon has been lately seen, which was killed and stuffed. There is abundance of pheasants and partridges, with a little black game and grouse. Woodcocks are much scarcer now than formerly, owing, it is thought, to the destruction of their nests, the eggs of this bird being held in high estimation. Lapwings are still numerous, and breed in the district. The snipe is also an inhabitant of the parish, as well as the heron, but neither is common. The starling exists here, with all the variety of birds, both indigenous and migratory, that are common in the country. There are various kinds of ducks and other water-fowl, such as the gannet, cormorant, puffin, sea-magpie, and four or five species of gulls. In severe winters, wild geese sometimes alight, and feed on Howell meadow, or the neighbouring shores. The Dee is celebrated for its salmon. It likewise contains grilse, sea and

\* The writer is indebted to Mr E. B. Fleming, of the Kirkcudbright Academy, for the preceding geological information.

river trout, herlings, cod, flounder, plaice, dab eels, lythe, sole, mullet, skate, lamprey, whiting, par, spirling. Pike and perch have been occasionally caught in the fresh water portion of the river, and in the lower part are sometimes taken small herrings, haddocks, ling, mackerel, turbot, and shrimps, &c. Lesser spotted sharks (called here dog-fish), angel-sharks, and porpoises have at intervals appeared, and been killed. Salmon and grilse proceed up the Dee for the purpose of spawning, at all seasons of the year, but perhaps the principal run is during the month of July. They leave the fresh water again in the greatest numbers from the middle of February to the middle or end of March. The river exhibits the largest quantity of salmon-fry about the 12th of May. The shell-fish of the parish are, lobsters, crabs, rock-oysters, cockles, muscles, wilks, buckies, limpets, pipes. Mussels are much sought after by the poor, and may be collected on some rocks in pretty large quantities. On the Torrs' shore are seen, during spring tides, considerable numbers of oysters. Buckies are here extensively used as baits for white fish; they are therefore of much value. Limpets and a kind of sand-worms are likewise used.

There are few reptiles in the parish, and insects are not particularly destructive.

The following animals formerly existed, but have now disappeared, viz. the urus,—an animal resembling a bull,—the wolf, the deer, the wild cat, and the eagle.

*Botany.*—The following list of the rarer plants belonging to the parish was kindly furnished to the writer by Major-General Irving, Balmae House.

<i>Alisma ranunculoides</i>	<i>Doronicum plantagineum</i>	<i>Hypericum humifusum</i>
<i>Allium arenarium</i>	<i>Drosera anglica</i>	<i>Inula Helenium</i>
—— vineale	—— longifolia	<i>Isoetes lacustris</i>
<i>Althea officinalis</i>	<i>Eleocharis acicularis</i>	—— maritimum
<i>Anagallis tenella</i>	—— pauciflora	—— obtusiflorus
<i>Anchusa sempervirens</i>	<i>Epilobium alpinum</i>	<i>Lamium maculatum</i>
<i>Angelica Archangelica</i>	—— alsinifolium	<i>Lathyrus latifolius</i>
<i>Anthemis nobilis</i>	<i>Ervum tetraspermum</i>	—— sylvestris
<i>Asplenium marinum</i>	<i>Erythraea Reneal, pulchella</i>	<i>Linum perenne</i>
<i>Aster Tripolium</i>	<i>Hook.</i>	<i>Lobelia Dortmanna</i>
<i>Astragalus glycyphyllus</i>	<i>Euonymus Europæus</i>	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>
<i>Butomus umbellatus</i>	<i>Galium boreale</i>	<i>Malva moschata</i>
<i>Camelina sativa</i>	—— pusillum	<i>Meconopsis cambrica</i>
<i>Carduus Marianus</i>	—— Mollugo	<i>Myrica Gale</i>
<i>Carlina vulgaris</i>	—— uliginosum	<i>Myrrhis odorata</i>
<i>Carum verticillatum</i>	<i>Geranium phæum</i>	<i>Narcissus pseudo-narcissus</i>
<i>Cheiranthus Cheiri</i>	<i>Glaucium luteum</i>	<i>Nuphar lutea</i>
<i>Cnicus heterophyllus</i>	<i>Gnaphalium margaritaceum</i>	<i>Nymphaea alba</i>
<i>Convolvulus sepium</i>	<i>Goodyera repens</i>	<i>Ceanothus fistulosus</i>
<i>Crambe maritima</i>	<i>Helleborus viridis</i>	—— pimpinelloides
<i>Critthum maritimum</i>	—— repens	<i>Ophioglossum vulgatum</i>
<i>Dianthus Armeria</i>	<i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>	<i>Ornithopus perpusillus</i>

<i>Potamogetonum</i> , <i>Hoffm.</i>	<i>Sambucus</i> <i>Ebulus</i>	<i>Utricularia</i> <i>minor</i>
———— <i>segetum</i>	<i>Samolus</i> <i>Valerandi</i>	———— <i>vulgaris</i>
<i>Phleum</i> <i>arenarium</i>	<i>Scolopendrium</i> <i>vulgare</i>	<i>Vaccinium</i> <i>Oxycoccus</i>
<i>Potentilla</i> <i>Fragariastrum</i>	<i>Scutellaria</i> <i>galericulata</i>	<i>Valeriana</i> <i>pyrenaica</i>
<i>Pulicaria</i> <i>dysenterica</i>	———— <i>minor</i>	———— <i>rubra</i>
<i>Ranunculus</i> <i>arvensis</i>	<i>Solanum</i> <i>Dulcamara</i>	<i>Verbascum</i> <i>Thapsus</i>
———— <i>Lingua</i>	<i>Sparganium</i> <i>simplex</i>	<i>Vinca</i> <i>major</i>
<i>Raphanus</i> <i>maritimus</i>	<i>Stachys</i> <i>ambigua</i>	———— <i>minor</i>
<i>Ruppia</i> <i>maritima</i>	———— <i>Germanica</i>	<i>Zostera</i> <i>marina</i> .
<i>Ruscus</i> <i>aculeatus</i>	<i>Typha</i> <i>latifolia</i>	

*Forests or Plantations.*—The plantations are composed principally of oak, ash, elm, beech, plane, Spanish-chestnut, larch, Scotch-fir, spruce, and silver fir; and partially of alder, birch, hornbeam, horse-chestnut, walnut, gean, maple, lime, laburnum, Huntingdon willow, poplar, balm of Gilead fir, and pinaster.

There is little wood indigenous to the soil, with the exception of a few ash and mountain-ash trees in the glens of Glenlay and Bombie; and along the bank of the Dee, a little below and above the old bridge of Tongland. There are some oaks, in addition to the ash and rowan; and farther up the river, within Culdoch, in the march of Netherthird, there are a few birch.

The other plants and shrubs natural to such localities are, the hazel, hawthorn, sloe, wild dog-wood, crab, black-saugh, whin, broom, buckie and bramble briars, rasp, honeysuckle, and ivy.

There are a considerable number of beech-trees and some elms in St Mary's Isle, the circumference of the trunks of which reach 8 and 9 feet, and several of them 11 feet. One oak is 10 feet, and a Spanish-chestnut 14 feet in circumference.

On the farm of Kirkland, in the south Cotland field, is a plane tree, the circumference of which is 11 feet, and the spread of the top covers a circuit of 60 yards.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Historical Events.*—The parish of Kirkcudbright is rich in historical events. The town is thought to have existed before the invasion of the Romans, and to have been known to them by the name of Benutium. Agricola, with his victorious army, penetrated into the parish A. D. 82. He entered it on the north-east boundary, and having taken a British strength belonging to the Selgovae on the farm of Little Sypland, he encamped near Whinnyligget, about a mile from the captured fort. After reducing another strength on the farm of Meikle Sypland, the Roman army proceeded to Bombie, where they formed an encampment. After wresting from their defenders several intervening fortlets, they again encamped near the site of the old church of Dunrod. Another short march placed them before the important fort-



ress of Caerbantorigum, which they also seized. This fortress, which may be considered the principal border garrison of the Selgovae, stood on an eminence of about 250 feet high at Drummore. The Romans retained possession of it during the reigns of the Antonines, or, as some think, for nearly 300 years. The inhabitants of the locality must have derived many advantages from the presence of these more civilized and industrious foreigners; for Agricola was particularly zealous in promoting improvement among the conquered tribes of Scotland.

Whilst Malcolm IV., son of David I., was a minor, Fergus, the Lord of Galloway, whose palace stood on an island in Lochfergus, near the town of Kirkcudbright, abjured his connection with the Scottish crown, and asserted his independence as a sovereign prince. The King took up arms to chastise him, and twice invaded his rugged territories, but without success. Malcolm marched against the Galwegian chief a third time, with additional forces and redoubled ardour, and completely prevailed. In 1160, Fergus resigned the Lordship of Galloway, and retiring into the abbey of Holyrood, next year died of grief. He bestowed upon this institution the church and village of Dunrod, with the lands and church of Galtway. Fergus was a prince of great piety and some notoriety. He married Elizabeth, illegitimate daughter of Henry I., King of England, and was much at David's Court. He was ancestor of Bruce and Baliol, and from him the royal families of both France and England are descended.

Fergus was succeeded by his two sons, Uchtred and Gilbert, between whom, according to the Celtic law, his dominions were divided. The brothers became mutually jealous of each other, and on the 22d of September 1174, whilst Uchtred resided in his castle at Lochfergus, he was attacked by his elder brother, deprived of his tongue and eyes, and murdered in a most barbarous manner. Uchtred, like his father, was distinguished for his piety: he bestowed the church of Kirkcudbright upon the monks of Holyrood, who enjoyed the tithes and revenues, whilst the cure was served by a vicar.

The last in the male line of the ancient princes of Galloway was Allan, who died, in all probability, in the castle of Lochfergus, or Kirkcudbright Castle, and was buried in Dundrennan Abbey, founded by Fergus, his great-grandfather.

During the competition for the crown of Scotland, Edward I., who was appointed umpire, committed the keeping of the castle

of Kirkcudbright, erected by one of the Lords of Galloway, to Walter De Courry, and afterwards to Richard Seward, who, on the mandate of the English King, delivered it up to John Baliol, to whom the kingdom of Scotland was nominally awarded.

After his defeat at Falkirk, the patriot Wallace took shipping at Kirkcudbright, and sailed to France with Maclellan of Bombie, ancestor of the noble family of Kirkcudbright, and about fifty faithful adherents. Edward I., in his career of conquest, reached the town of Kirkcudbright, and took up his abode in the castle, where he remained with his queen and court for ten days, and made his usual oblations in the priory church. From the port of Kirkcudbright he sent into both England and Ireland large quantities of wheat, to be made into flour for the use of his army. The Archbishop of Canterbury, attended by his learned dignitaries, clerks, and servants, followed Edward to Kirkcudbright with a Papal bull; but before his arrival the king had departed from the town. Bakers from Carlisle, and experienced fishermen with suitable nets, attended the royal army.

Edward Bruce having subdued Galloway, received from his royal brother, as a reward of his important services, the Lordship of Galloway, with the castle of Kirkcudbright, and all Baliol's forfeited estates. This ruler granted to the priory of Whithorn the half of the salmon fishery of the Dee, near Kirkcudbright.

In the reign of James II. Sir John Herries of Terregles applied to Douglas of Threave Castle for compensation for some robberies committed by the dependents of that powerful chief. The application was unsuccessful; and he, aided by Maclellan of Bombie, made an inroad into the territories of the Earl, but his party was routed, and he himself taken prisoner, and executed in defiance of the king's command. The encounter is thought to have taken place about a mile and a-half from the town of Kirkcudbright, on the old road to Dumfries, at a place still called "Herries'-slaughter."

The tutor of Bombie soon shared the same fate. Admittance having been obtained, either by force or treachery, into his castle of Raeberry, the principal residence of the family, he was seized, carried to Threave Castle, and beheaded, although Sir Patrick Gray, the King's messenger, had arrived to demand the custody of the prisoner. Douglas was stabbed by the king's own hand in the castle of Stirling on the 20th day of February 1452.

In about three years after this event, James visited the town of

Kirkcudbright to make arrangements for laying siege to the strong castle of Threave, the last place that held out for the Douglasses. The citizens afforded him assistance, having supplied, it is believed, the iron from which Mons Meg was manufactured. Before the fall of the Douglasses, the capital of Galloway remained a burgh of regality under their oppressive sway, but it was now created a royal burgh by a charter dated at Perth the 26th of October 1455, the chief magistrate being styled alderman. The Maclellans of Bombie often held this office. After the battle of Touton, in 1461, Kirkcudbright afforded shelter to the unfortunate Henry VI. of England and his high-minded queen. The King resided here until his indomitable consort visited Edinburgh to concert measures with the Scottish Government for regaining to her husband the English crown. On the 16th of April 1462, Margaret, with a convoy of four Scottish ships, sailed from Kirkcudbright to Bretagne, in France, and in 1463, the feeble Henry returned to England in disguise. It appears he had only four attendants with him in Scotland.

In the spring of 1501, the town of Kirkcudbright had again the honour of a royal visit. James IV., in one of his numerous pilgrimages to the shrine of St Ninian at Whithorn, diverged thither, and, with his usual liberality to the clergy, bestowed L. 1 upon the priests, and L. 5, 5s. upon the friars, to buy a Eucharist.

Thomas, Earl of Derby, a young, fiery, and warlike chief, having succeeded to the sovereignty of Mar, to extend his fame and gratify the hostile feelings of his subjects to the Scots, made a descent upon the shores of Galloway in 1507, at the head of a formidable body of furious Manxmen, and nearly destroyed the town of Kirkcudbright. For some years afterwards many of the houses remained in ruins.

James IV. again visited the burgh in 1508, and was hospitably entertained by the inhabitants. On this occasion, he granted them the castle of Kirkcudbright and its lands, which had reverted to the crown on the forfeiture of the Douglasses, on whom it had been bestowed in 1369 by David II. This grant was confirmed by a charter in the following year, dated the 26th of February; and it is said to have been made on account of certain aids afforded to his grandfather, James II., when engaged in the reduction of Threave Castle, and for services to James himself.

On the 9th of September 1513, Sir William Maclellan of Bombie, the principal proprietor of the parish, was slain with a num-

ber of his dependents in the disastrous battle of Flodden. His son fell in a feud by the hand of Gordon of Lochinvar, at the door of St Giles' Church, in Edinburgh.

The Duke of Albany, regent of Scotland, and next heir to the crown, in 1523, embarked at Brest in a fleet of eighty-seven vessels, and having escaped the English squadron, landed at Kirkcudbright on the 7th of October, where he was joyfully received.

During the minority of Mary Queen of Scots, the English having gained possession of Dumfries, summoned the town of Kirkcudbright to submit to the authority of Edward VI. This demand being refused, a detachment of the invaders on horseback proceeded to the town, under the command of Sir Thomas Carleton, to compel obedience or burn it. They reached their place of destination, a little before sunrise; but the inhabitants had got notice of their approach, and, according to Sir Thomas's account, "barred their gates and kept their dikes; for the town," he adds, "is diked on both sides, with a gate to the waterward, and a gate at the overend to the fellward." The English alighted from their horses, and vigorously assailed the place; but they could make no impression upon it. One man was killed within the walls by an arrow, and immediately some of the women began to be alarmed for the safety of their husbands. The tutor of Bombie, at the head of a party of his friends, now made his appearance, and fiercely attacked the besiegers; but, after three of his men were killed and a number of them wounded or made prisoners, he thought it advisable to retire. Though only one of the English fell in the conflict, they did not venture to attack the town a second time, but retired to Dumfries.

After the destruction of the ill-fated Mary's army at Langside, she fled into Galloway, accompanied by Lord Herries and his followers. Having travelled along the west side of the Ken, she crossed the Dee by a wooden bridge, thought to have been erected by the Romans, near Tongland church, and entered the parish of Kirkcudbright. Whilst her attendants were engaged in breaking down the bridge to prevent pursuit, she remained in a neighbouring cottage. The ruins which long existed in the farm of Culdoch were called "Dun's Wa's." The fugitive Queen remained three days in the district before proceeding to England.

To avenge the death of Mary and his own wrongs, Philip, King of Spain, &c. fitted out a stupendous fleet and collected a vast army for the invasion of Britain. The place fixed for the landing of

the Spanish troops was the harbour of Kirkcudbright. Lord Maxwell hurried home from Spain to arm his followers, and landed at the same place. The fate of the Spanish Armada is well known : it was defeated by the English fleet before it reached the destined port, and the elements completed its destruction.

James VI. appears to have been in Kirkcudbright when in pursuit of Lord Maxwell ; for the burgh is in possession of a small silver gun, which, according to tradition, was presented to the incorporated trades during his visit, that they might occasionally shoot for it, and by this means improve in the use of fire-arms,—then rapidly superseding the bow and arrow as implements of war. The year 1587 and the letters T. M. C., supposed to be the initials of Thomas Maclellan of Bombie, are engraven on the barrel of this miniature fusee. The trinket, seven inches in length, has been shot for, only three times in the memory of the oldest person now living, 1st, in 1781 ; 2d, on the 22d of April 1830 ; and, 3d, on the 28th of June 1838, the day of the Queen's coronation. The capacious wassail bowl belonging to the burgh was filled and refilled on the joyful occasion.

When Charles I. visited Scotland to conciliate the favour of his northern subjects, he bestowed upon Sir Robert Maclellan of Bombie the title of Lord Kirkcudbright, and granted a new charter to the burgh dated the 20th of July 1633, which created the present corporation, consisting of a provost, two bailies, a treasurer, and thirteen councillors. In the Battle of Philiphaugh, John, third Lord Kirkcudbright commanded a regiment which he had raised at his own expense, chiefly among his tenants. It behaved with great bravery, and was awarded 15,000 merks out of Lord Herries's forfeited estates.

In 1663, a serious riot took place in the parish at the introduction of a curate. Commissioners were appointed to repair to the burgh, and make the most searching inquiry into the particulars of this contempt of authority. After examining a number of witnesses, they ordered Lord Kirkcudbright, John Carson, late provost, John Ewart, who had been chosen provost, but had refused to accept of the office, and several women, to be carried prisoners to Edinburgh. Some of the rioters were imprisoned and afterwards fined ; and several of them were exposed at the market-cross of Kirkcudbright, with papers upon their faces stating the nature of their crime.

After the defeat of the insurgent Covenanters at Rullion Green

in the Pentland Hills, Major M'Culloch of Barholm, John Gordon of Knockbren, and Robert Gordon, his brother, were sentenced to be executed at Edinburgh, and their heads sent to Kirkcudbright, to be exposed on the principal gate of the town. This sentence was put into execution. In 1684, two Covenanters, William Hunter and Robert Smith, who had been apprehended at Auchencloy, on the Dee, were brought to the town, where a jury being called, and the empty forms of a trial gone through, they were sentenced to be first hanged and then beheaded: this sentence was literally carried into effect. They were buried in Kirkcudbright churchyard, and a stone still points out the place of interment. John Hallam, another Covenanter, was also tried and executed in Kirkcudbright: his remains rest in the same churchyard.

In 1685, Sir Robert Grierson of Lag surprised John Bell of Whiteside and some others on the hill of Kirkconnel, in the parish of Tongland, and barbarously ordered them to be instantly put to death: he would not allow their bodies to be buried. Mr Bell was the only son of the heiress of Whiteside, who, after the death of his father, had married Viscount Kenmure. This nobleman met Lag in company with Graham of Claverhouse on the street of Kirkcudbright. Kenmure accused Lag of cruelty, when he retorted in highly offensive language, which so provoked the Viscount, that he drew his sword and would have run it through the body of the persecutor, had not Claverhouse interfered and saved his life. The encounter happened near the door of an inn at the north end of the town.

William's fleet, on its passage to Ireland, continued for some time wind-bound in the Bay of Kirkcudbright. He erected a battery on the eastern shore, some traces of which still remain.

In 1698, a woman named Elspeth M'Ewen was brought to trial for witchcraft, condemned and burned to death near the town.

On the 12th November 1706, the magistrates, councillors, and other inhabitants of the burgh petitioned Parliament against the Union. A riot afterwards took place.

Previous to the Rebellion of 1715, Kirkcudbright seems to have been fixed upon as the place where the Pretender was to land. So enthusiastic did the inhabitants become in the royal cause, that they sent a company of foot under the command of their late provost, to assist in the defence of Dumfries against the rebels, who intended vigorously to attack it.

On the 1st of June 1750, Thomas Miller of Glenlee, Esq.

advocate, first Steward-Depute of the stewartry of Kirkcudbright, passed sentence of death upon Henry Greig, accused of theft, house-breaking, and robbery. The execution took place in the vicinity of the ancient Gallow-hill, on an eminence at the side of the public road. This was the last melancholy exhibition of a capital punishment that the burgh of Kirkcudbright has been called upon to witness.

In the spring of 1778, the celebrated Paul Jones paid a visit to St Mary's Isle for the purpose of carrying off its noble owner, the Earl of Selkirk. Soon after he had effected a landing, he was informed by some labourers that his Lordship was in England. He then ordered his men to return to their boat ; but, observing on their countenances symptoms of dissatisfaction, he allowed the party, commanded by two lieutenants, to proceed to the mansion-house, and demand the Earl's silver-plate. The various articles were delivered to them by the Countess of Selkirk, and the party setting off without delay, reached their ship. The plate was bought at a considerable price by Paul Jones himself in France, and returned to her Ladyship in perfect safety.

*Maps, &c.*—The land-owners have maps, plans, or surveys of their properties, which tend to illustrate the antiquities of the parish.

*Eminent Characters.*—Exclusive of the eminent characters already taken notice of, we may mention a few men who have done honour to Kirkcudbright by their talents and labours.

In the reign of David II., John Carpenter, a Franciscan or Grey-friar belonging to the convent established at Kirkcudbright, was employed to fortify Dumbarton Castle. For this service he received from the King an annual pension of £20 Sterling. He is said to have been an excellent engineer, and “dextrous at contriving all instruments of war.”

John Barton, brother of the well known Andrew Barton, and son of the renowned sea captain of that name, who was slain by the Portuguese in the reign of James III., died and was buried in Kirkcudbright church-yard.

John Welsh, son-in-law of John Knox, was minister of the parish. He was banished from Britain for his opposition to Episcopal encroachment. By powerful intercession, the King at length allowed him to reside in London, where he died in 1622.

John Maclellan, who wrote, in 1665, a description of Galloway in Latin for Blaeu's Atlas, which gained him some celebrity, was minister of Kirkcudbright.

Dr Thomas Blacklock, who had been blind almost from infancy, was ordained to the pastoral charge of the parish of Kirkcudbright in 1762. He was both an elegant writer and an amiable man. His settlement being strenuously opposed, he at length felt himself compelled to resign his living and retire to Edinburgh.

Basil William Lord Daer was the eldest surviving son of Dunbar, Earl of Selkirk. About the year 1786, his father's advanced age prevented him from engaging personally in the improvement of his estates; and, by a generous and merited act of confidence, he devolved the management of his property on his talented son. Lord Daer turned his attention to the study of rural economy in its various branches, and displayed much ability in the formation, and diligence in the execution, of his admirable plans. His exertions, however, were not confined to the improvement of his father's estates; they extended to the promotion of every measure of public utility. By his liberality, judgment, influence, and example, he induced the proprietors of the district to form proper roads, to erect suitable bridges, to lay out ornamental plantations, to build better farm-houses, and construct convenient offices. This celebrated nobleman died on the 5th of November, 1794, at the early age of thirty-two years. Of Lord Daer, the History of Galloway thus speaks:—"We cannot name this amiable and youthful nobleman without remarking, that his genuine distinction did not arise from the accidents of rank, influence, and fortune. He belonged to the aristocracy of nature—to the peerage of intellect; for, if his useful and valuable life had been spared, the magnitude and buoyancy of his talents would have raised him to eminence, and the south of Scotland to unexampled prosperity. We do not remember this truly great and good man, who, during his short and philanthropic career, gained the esteem, commanded the admiration, and riveted to himself the hearts of all by whom he was surrounded; but well we remember, that in our boyhood, his name was never mentioned in the town of Kirkcudbright, without emotions of the liveliest enthusiasm and veneration. He set an example that has been widely followed, and the district in which he resided will long reap the fruits of his disinterested labours."



Thomas, Earl of Selkirk, was distinguished as a scholar, an author, and a politician. In the management of his estates, he followed the judicious plans devised by his brother. He died at Pau, in France, on the 8th of April 1820, having scarcely completed the forty-ninth year of his age.

James Wedderburn, Esq., Solicitor-General of Scotland, died in 1822, at St Mary's Isle, and was interred in Galtway churchyard.

*Ministers of Kirkcudbright since the Revolution, with the years when their names first appeared in the synod book:—*“ John Spalding, 1689. Andrew Cameron, 1695. George Gartshore,\* 1723. Thomas Blacklock, 1762. William Crombie, 1765. Robert Muter, 1770. George Hamilton, 1820. John M'Millan, 1837.

*Chief Land-owners.*—The Earl of Selkirk is the principal landholder in the parish.

*Parochial Registers.*—A parochial register is regularly kept by the kirk-session. The oldest record commences in 1692.

*Antiquities, British Forts, &c.*—In the parish of Kirkcudbright, there are many vestiges of British forts; indeed, the whole eastern banks of the Dee, the line of demarcation between two hostile tribes, the Selgovae and Novantes, seem to have been studded with ancient fortifications. The most important in size and strength was Caerbantorigum, on the farm of Drummore. The hill on the top of which it stood commands a most extensive view both of land and water. The fort was surrounded by two ramparts, composed of earth and stone, and a double fosse, which remain almost entire, the ramparts being still covered with heather. In the middle of the enclosure is a pit partially filled with stones. To what uses it may have been devoted, it is now impossible to conjecture. It has the appearance of a well. In a piece of marshy ground at some little distance below the fort, is a large well, the sides built of stone, which some think supplied the garrison with water. At short distances from the eminence are still observable traces of the hostile Roman camps. About a mile and a half from Drummore hill, there are the remains of another British fort, likewise of a circular form, on the farm of Milton. There are two hill fortlets near the old church of Galtway; and a hill on the farm of Meikle Syp-

\* The distinguished physician, Dr Maxwell Gartshore of London, was his son.

land exhibits the site of a pretty entire fort, of about forty paces in diameter. This eminence overlooks a vast extent of country, and no enemy could have approached the fortress without being seen at a considerable distance. Between this and Galtway, traces of a Roman camp are still visible on Bombie Mains; and the remains of two British posts appear at no great distance. The farm of Little Sypland contains a large British fort: between the strongholds on the two Syplands, is the site of a Roman camp near Whinnyligget.

In the farm of Carse was a British fort, of about fifty paces in diameter, placed there, in all probability, to protect a ford nearly opposite in the Dee, and to overlook a portion of the river.

*Castles.*—On an island in Lochfergus, now drained, stood the strong mansion of the ancient Lords of Galloway. There were two fortified islands in the lake, the larger, about 90 paces in diameter, was called Palace Isle, and the smaller, Stable Isle.

The Lords of Galloway, as formerly noticed, had another castle in the immediate vicinity of the burgh, named Kirkcudbright-Castle. In old deeds, the lands are called Castle-Mains; but now the place bears the name of Castledykes. The castle was surrounded by a deep ditch, or fosse, into which the tide at high water probably flowed. Traces of the building are still apparent, though it has been long since demolished.

The Maclellans had a castle at Bombie, from which they took their title; but it is now a heap of ruins. They had another and a stronger castle at Raeberry, also in the parish of Kirkcudbright. It stood upon a rock which overhung a terrific precipice above the Solway Frith, and was disjoined from the main land by a deep fosse, with a strong wall. Across it, was a huge drawbridge, said to have been made of hard freestone. The wall and drawbridge are supposed to have been destroyed about ninety years ago, and the interior buildings about two hundred years prior to that time. At present, nothing remains but the site and fosse.

*Antiquities—Burgh.*—The town of Kirkcudbright was anciently encompassed by a wall and fosse. None of the wall is now visible, though the fosse, or ditch, is still open in several places. The space within the wall was almost a square, each side being about 350 yards long. The town had one gate at the river, and another on the side next the Barhill, called the Meikle Yett.\*

\* The three globular stones which stood above it are placed on the gate of the churchyard.

The tide seems to have flowed into the fosse, and consequently at high water to have completely surrounded the town. Houses stood with their gables to the street, and closes radiated from each side of it. At the cross are the old jail and steeple: the steeple contains the bells which are used on ordinary occasions, and a clock of no modern workmanship.

*Churches.*—Within the modern parish of Kirkcudbright, were at one time eight places of worship, with their respective churchyards. The town contained two churches, namely, that belonging to the convent of the Greyfriars, near the site of the present castle, and St Andrew's Church, which stood on the ground occupied by the new jail. The General Assembly which sat in Edinburgh during the summer of 1564, petitioned Queen Mary to grant the Friars' Church of Kirkcudbright to the magistrates, to be used as a parish church. The Queen was pleased to comply with this request, and the building then contained for the first time a Protestant congregation. The convent itself, having suffered from the fury of the populace, was bestowed upon Sir Thomas Maclellan of Bombie, to afford him a site for a new residence. This castle was erected in 1582: it is now in ruins, but the walls remain almost entire. The building retained its roof until 1752. In the year 1570, Sir Thomas Maclellan sold the Friar's Church and the church of St Andrews, with their churchyards, to the magistrates, council, and community of Kirkcudbright, for the sum "of twa hundredth merks, usual money, and ane hundredth bolls of lym." The late church of Kirkcudbright, built in 1730, stood upon the spot previously occupied by the Friars' Church. Below the portion of it called the Old Aisle, still remaining, is the tomb in which the mortal remains of the Maclellans were deposited.

The landward portion of the parish contained five churches. St Cuthbert's parish church stood about a quarter of a mile to the east of the town, surrounded by a church-yard, which is still used as a burying-ground by nearly all the inhabitants of the parish. It is well suited for the purpose, being a place of great beauty and solemnity. It was lately enlarged by a contract entered into between the magistrates and presbytery. A portion of the glebe, containing 1724 square yards, was given in exchange for 3247 square yards of the town's land: the addition to become the property of the burgh. This church appears to have been about 60 feet long and 30 broad. Its site is still visible, though the walls have been long ago removed. It probably ceased to be used as a

place of worship after the magistrates of Kirkcudbright had obtained possession of the Friars' church.

Galtway\* church stood on high ground, about two miles from the burgh. Traces of the walls are apparent. The church seems to have been but small, about 30 feet in length by 15 in breadth. The church-yard is still used by a few families. It is completely surrounded by a thriving plantation, and has a very sequestered appearance: the ancient wall, much dilapidated, exhibits its former boundaries. The enclosure is but small, namely, 67 paces long and 45 broad. The oldest monument is Thomas Ledderdale's of St Mary's Isle, who died on the 10th of February 1687. In the neighbourhood are some traces of a village which the plough has not entirely effaced.

The church and lands of Galtway were appropriated to the prior and canons of St Mary's Isle, a dependant cell of Holyrood, and continued to belong to that establishment until the Reformation. The priory stood in the parish of Galtway.

Dunrod† Church was situated at the distance of nearly three and a-half miles from the town of Kirkcudbright. The church seems to have been about 30 feet long and 15 broad. It also belonged to Holyrood.‡ The church-yard is of a circular form and continues to be used.

The population here was once considerable, though now few houses remain in the neighbourhood. In the end of the seventeenth century, the heritors of Dunrod and Galtway opposed the minister's application for an augmentation of stipend, because the parishes were a mere waste.

At what time the three parishes were united, is not exactly known; but it is thought that both Galtway and Dunrod were annexed to Kirkcudbright in 1663.

The priory of St Mary's Isle with its church, stood upon a piece of ground which must have been completely insulated at every influx of the tide. It is now a beautiful peninsula, and contains the seat of the Earl of Selkirk. This change has been affected partly by the retreat of the sea along the whole coast, but particularly at St Mary's Isle, and by embankments formed on each side of the isthmus between the island and the mainland.

\* From the British *galt*, a steep ascent.

† This word is said to be derived from *Dun*, a hill, and *rudd*, red.

‡ The Abbot of Holyrood granted to the collegiate church of Biggar the right of patronage of the perpetual vicarage of the parish church of Dunrod, in the stewardry of Kirkcudbright, on the 5th May 1555.—(New Statistical Account of Biggar.)

The ancient name of the island was Trahil or Trayll,\* but after the foundation of the priory dedicated to St Mary, it received the popular appellation of St Mary's Isle. There are now no vestiges of the priory to be seen. All the buildings were removed above a century and a-half ago, and the whole site of the priory is occupied by his Lordship's mansion and pleasure grounds. The edifice was surrounded by high walls, and the outer gate, called the *Great-Cross*, stood at the distance of half a-mile from the priory, and about as far from the town. The inner gate led immediately to the cells inhabited by the monks, and was distinguished by the name of the *Little-Cross*. The gates were long ago demolished, but crosses must have been conspicuous at both entrances. The prior of St Mary's Isle, like other priors, had a right to a seat in Parliament. Robert Strivelin was the last prior, and after his death, Robert Richardson, who also held the offices of Lord Treasurer and Master of the Moat, was presented to the priory on the 30th March 1538; he sat as commendator in the Parliament of 1560. In 1572, Mr Robert Richardson, usufructuary, and William Rutherford, commendator, granted to James Ledderdale, and Thomas, his son, the lands which belonged to the priory of St Mary's Isle. This grant was confirmed by a charter from the king, dated the 4th November 1573.†

*Druid Temple.*—Dr Muter, minister of Kirkcudbright, mentions in the Old Statistical Account, that there was formerly a Druid temple in the parish, near the Roman camp in Bombie. It was destroyed, he says, a short time before he wrote by an "ignorant Goth," who carried off and split the stones for building a small bridge over the Buckland-burn.

*Moats.*—Moats or motes were fortified eminences, used for courts of justice. There seem to have been two places of this kind in the parish, namely, one in the town, still bearing the name of the Moatbrae, and another in the country, called the Moothill. Some of the ancient hill forts seem to have been subsequently used as places for dispensing justice.

*Relics.*—A few years ago, some flint hatchets, lying several feet

\* It was designated prioratus Sanctae Mariae de Trayll.

† The property granted consisted of St Mary's Isle, Grange, Torrs and Little Galtway, reserving eight acres of land contiguous to the church of Galtway, for the use of the minister. Ledderdale also obtained a lease of nineteen years' duration of the spiritual property of the priory. In 1570, the following individuals officiated in three of the churches, Kirkcudbright, James Dodds, minister; allowance, L.24; Dunrod, William Maclellan, reader, 20 merks; St Mary's Isle, Thomas Anderson, exhorter, L.20.

below the surface of the ground were found in the farm of Milton; the skeleton of a man lay near them.

A kind of stone coffin was lately discovered near Galtway old church: it contained some black mould, and small fragments of bones, which at one time must have formed a portion of the body of one of the primitive inhabitants.

Not long since, a cup of Roman metal was found in the trench at Castledykes, near the town: it is in the possession of Mr Train, Castledouglas.

About the beginning of last century, as some men were engaged in making ditches, they turned up a plate of pure gold near Drummore Castle, for which they obtained L.20.

Quantities of silver coin have been found, within the last twenty years, on the farm of Lochfergus. The pieces were of the reign of Edward I. Small coins called "Charles' placks" have been often found in and near the town of Kirkcudbright.

*Modern Buildings.*—There are two churches in the parish, namely, the parish church and the United Secession church. The first, a large and elegant building, capable of containing a congregation of upwards of 1500, was completed in 1838, at an expense of about L. 7000. The burgh possesses one portion of it, the landward heritors another, and the incorporated trades a third. The funds of the burgh were saved to a considerable amount by private donations; and the trades received the sum of L.150, which was left them by Miss Gordon of Threaveinains, to enable them to erect a gallery in the new church, for the accommodation of themselves and their families. To the burgh belong 608 sittings, 200 of which are let at 2s. 6d. each, L.25; 278 at 2s. each, L.27, 16s.; 130 at 1s. 6d. each, L.9, 15s.; total rent, L.62, 11s. There are 24 free sittings belonging to the burgh. No rent is exacted for seats belonging to the landward heritors. The church has a spire of considerable height attached to it, containing an excellent clock, and a very fine bell, both presents from the late James Lennox, Esq. of Dalskairth: the site of the building was given by Lord Selkirk.

The chapel belonging to the United Secession church is a neat and comfortable edifice. It was completed in 1822, and cost about L.950.

The foundation stones of the jail and academy were laid with masonic honours on the 8th day of May 1815. The Jail, which is of a castellated form, rises in some parts of the structure to the

height of 75 feet; several of the apartments are large, but not well suited to the present system of prison discipline. Some alterations are contemplated in the interior arrangement of the cells. The prison was erected at the joint expense of the county and burgh, and cost between L.4000 and L.5000. The court-room, a spacious and elegant hall, is contiguous to the prison. The buildings, from a distance, have an imposing appearance.

The Academy consists of three large class rooms and a library. Its site, with about an acre of ground adjoining, was presented to the magistrates by the late Lord Selkirk. It has a kind of piazza, or portico, in front for the use of the scholars in bad weather. The academy originally cost L.1129, but the expense of its erection was partly defrayed by subscriptions from the friends of the institution.

*Mansion-Houses.* — The mansion-houses in the parish are St Mary's Isle, Balmae, Janefield, St Cuthbert's Cottage, and Fludha.

### III.—POPULATION.

*Ancient State.*—The ancient state of the inhabitants of the parish was by no means favourable to their health and happiness. About the beginning of the last century, their houses in general were miserable hovels, built of stone and turf, or stone and clay, and covered with turf and indifferent straw. Holes in the walls or roof served to admit light, and allow the smoke to escape. Domestic animals, such as cows and horses, were often kept in the dwelling houses of the inhabitants. In a report made by the magistrates of Kirkcudbright to the commissioners of the convention of royal burghs in 1692, they say, “that the most part of their houses are inhabited by their respective heritors, and all the rest are either waist or ruinous, and that more than the half.”

Their furniture was of the rudest and poorest kind, and their food consisted of the meanest and coarsest materials. In the same report, it is stated that the town had no foreign trade, and that their inland trade was very inconsiderable; that all the articles they required, they brought from other towns on horseback; that all the vessels they had, was one small boat of eight tons, newly bought for carrying their coal.

The dress of this period was uncouth and homely, and in general neither men nor women wore shoes in summer; shirts they scarcely knew.

Their agricultural operations continued extremely awkward and inefficient, and the instruments then in use were clumsy, ponder-

ous, and imperfectly constructed. Almost all the ordinary drudgery of life was performed by females. Little employment could be obtained, and the price of labour remained miserably low. Education at this period was in a deplorable state. Few of the common people could read even the Bible, and superstition prevailed to a lamentable degree.

Amount of the population of the parish at each census .

	Males.	Females.	Total.
In 1786, .	871	847	1918
1792, .	1119	1176	2295
1801, .	1043	1338	2381
1811, .	1258	1508	2766
1821, .	1509	1868	3377
1831, .	1542	1969	3511
1841, .	1518	2008	3526

Population of the burgh :

	Males.	Females.	Total.
In 1821, .	1139	1456	2595
1831, .	1167	1523	2690
1841, .	1117	1580	2697

Population of the country in 1841, 829.

The country portion of the parish is thought to have been at one time much more populous than at present.

During the last year, there were 60 births, 50 deaths, and 10 marriages in the town and country. There are some individuals above ninety years of age. One noble family, and several persons of independent fortune reside in the parish.

There are five proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards. The burgh also has a rental from land, of about L. 600.

795 families reside in the parish, namely, 635 in the burgh, and 160 in the country.

The parish contains 5 insane and 2 fatuous persons. There are in it one blind person and one deaf and dumb.

*Character.*—The people of Kirkcudbright are as intellectual, moral, and religious as those of any other parish ; but their intelligence is free from pedantry, their morality from cant, and their religion from fanaticism. They have been long distinguished for their attachment to their pastors, and respect towards their superiors in station. The higher ranks are attentive and hospitable to strangers, and the lower ranks are peaceable, modest, obliging, and industrious. Formerly, they were said to be addicted to the use of spirituous liquors ; but such a charge cannot now be brought against them, at least with any foundation in truth. There are few crimes committed in the parish, and these by no means of an



aggravated nature. Poaching in game still prevails, though to a trifling extent, considering the temptation the great abundance of game presents, the facility of turning into money, and the poverty of some of the inhabitants. Smuggling is now almost unknown, and no regular pawnbroking has ever been carried on in the parish.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—There are about 3000 acres in tillage, and 500 which remain constantly in waste or pasture. About 500 acres have been planted. The management of the plantations is good.

*Rent.*—The average rent of arableland is about L.1 per acre. A cow or ox can be grazed for L. 4 for the year, and a sheep for 5s.

*Wages.*—The rate of wages for farm labourers and country artisans may be stated at 1s. 4d. per day. Men servants, on an average, receive about L.4, and women servants L.2 half-yearly, with victuals. Masons' wages average 2s. 6d. per day, and house carpenters, 2s.

Cattle are of the Galloway breed, and sheep of the Leicester.

The general duration of leases extend to fifteen years; but leases are not numerous.

The state of farm buildings and enclosures is good.

Draining is now much attended to.

*Fisheries.*—The river Dee contains three valuable salmon-fisheries. The rent of the Tongland fishing, which belongs to Alexander Murray, Esq. of Broughton, was once as high as L. 705. Its present amount is not correctly known. It is extremely productive. Three hundred fish have been taken out of a pool called the Sandbed, on the Kirkcudbright side of the river, at one draught; and even during last season, one draught yielded no fewer than 100 salmon and grilises with three trouts. Out of another pool called the Sheep-Dubb, on the same side of the river, were taken at one time last summer, 589 fish, some of them of a large size. The burgh has a fishery, which lets at present at L.80 per annum; and Lord Selkirk possesses a third, the rent of which is generally supposed to be about L.150. This is also a productive fishery, and the quality of the salmon cannot be surpassed; they are principally taken in yairs. A considerable quantity of excellent cod is caught off the mouth of the river by hooks fastened to lines.

*Produce.*—The average amount of raw produce raised in the parish cannot be exactly ascertained. The following may approach the truth.

Produce of grain, . . . . .	L.8000	0	0
Potatoes, turnips, &c., . . . . .	2000	0	0
Land in pasture, . . . . .	10,000	0	0
Hay, . . . . .	1890	0	0
Gardens, . . . . .	500	0	0
Fisheries, . . . . .	1000	0	0
Miscellaneous produce, . . . . .	1500	0	0
Total value,	L.24,990	0	0

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church is conveniently situated for the greater part of the population: no houses are above three and a-half miles distant from it. It is in a state of complete repair.

*Benefactions.*—In 1639, Robert Johnston, Esq. physician, London, left to the poor of Kirkcudbright the sum of L.500 Sterling. In 1730, David Currie, Esq. of Newlaw, left L.16, interest to be applied in purchasing Bibles for the poor at New Year's day; and in 1803 James R. Smyth, Esq. of New York, left L.31 for the same purpose. Mr Currie of Newlaw left L.20, the interest to be paid to the poor in sixpences at New Year's Day. In 1791, William Lawrie, Esq. of Barnsoul, bequeathed to the poor L.10, interest to be applied in purchasing meal and coals. William Johnston, Esq. of Madeira, left in 1795, L.100 interest to be applied for the same purpose. In 1779, David Sproat, Esq. of Portmary, mortified L.200 for clothing and educating poor boys, the sons of respectable burgesses. William Johnston, Esq. of Marwhirn, in 1802, invested in the hands of the magistrates L.100, interest to be divided among "five householders who had seen better days." In 1831, Alexander Gordon, Esq. of London, left L.270, the interest to be paid annually to the poor by the minister and kirk-session; and in the same year Miss Jean Gordon of Threavemains invested L.80 for the same purpose. In 1833, John Commelin, Esq. Dumfries, left L.400, one-half of the interest to be applied in aid of the poor, and one-half for purchasing prizes for the grammar school. Thomas Macmillan, Esq. of the grammar school, bequeathed, at his death in 1827, L.200 for educational and charitable purposes, and L.6 yearly from the lands of Bellerigg, one-half for a prize to the best scholar in the grammar school, and the other half for purchasing entertaining books, to be divided among the poor of the town of Kirkcudbright.

*Stipend.*—The minister has no manse, but he receives L.50 per annum as manse rent. He has one glebe, for which he draws an yearly rent of L.18. His stipend last year amounted to L.240, but the average amount may be about L.280.

*Established Church.*—Three thousand one hundred persons profess to belong to the Established Church, which is generally well attended. There are 850 communicants.

*Secession Church.*—This place of worship is attended by 40 families, some of whom are from the neighbouring parishes. About 150 individuals belong to the United Secession Church in the parish of Kirkcudbright. The number of communicants is at present from 90 to 100. Though in general Divine service is not numerously attended, yet the chapel is sometimes respectably filled. The stipend of the minister, which is somewhat variable, is raised by the voluntary contributions of the people, assisted occasionally by donations from the Synod fund. Collections are sometimes made for missionary and charitable purposes.

*Catholics.*—The Catholics have an apartment which they occupy as a chapel. The Right Rev. Andrew Carruthers, who resides generally in Edinburgh, is the Bishop.

The families that attend this chapel are 51 in number: and the number of persons who belong to the Catholic congregation of Kirkcudbright, according to a census just taken, is 314. Divine worship is said to be well attended; but the clergyman can only officiate on the first Sunday of every month. About 200 individuals of this persuasion permanently reside in the parish.

*Society.*—One Society has been established in aid of the India Mission. It annually contributes about L.20 to the general fund.

*Collections.*—The poor are supported principally by collections made in the church, the funds of the town and country poor being kept separate. The church collections for the poor amount annually to about L.140, to which may be added L.30 collected for educational purposes.

*Manufactures.*—Formerly, Kirkcudbright was celebrated for its manufacture of gloves, and more recently, of boots and shoes. One firm in the town, a few years ago, generally employed no fewer than 24 men, and shoes were sent to a great distance. There were, at one time, though on a small scale, manufactories of soap, candles, and leather; and kelp was also frequently made upon the shores. On the ground occupied by the academy, once stood a brewery; and a house yet remains that was built for a snuff-mill.

*Navigation.*—Twenty-six vessels belong to the port—tonnage, 922. In 1692, Kirkcudbright had only one boat of 8 tons burden. In 1840, the Custom House port of Kirkcudbright, with its

creeks, possessed 54 vessels—tonnage, 2069. No foreign vessels trade to the port. A little above the harbour is a ferry, where passengers are carried across the river in a flat-bottomed boat of an oblong form, with both comfort and expedition. To each end of the boat is attached by hinges, and suspended by chains, a broad platform or pathway, by which all kinds of vehicles can enter, and depart without loss of time, and almost with as much ease as if travelling along a common road. The boat is commodious, and can hold at once four carts with their horses attached, or two carriages and one gig. It is moved along a chain by a crank wench. The rent of the boat and boat-house is L.128.

*Incorporated Trades.*—There are no public or private associations in the parish for the encouragement or improvement of any branch of industry; but there are six incorporated trades, namely, the Squarmen, 36 members; Tailors, 13; Weavers, 22; Hammermen; 13; Clothiers, 20; Shoemakers, 17; total number of members, 121.

*Market-Town.*—The only town in the parish is Kirkcudbright; and there are no collections of houses in it to which the term villages could be applied. In Kirkcudbright, a weekly market is held every Friday, but it is not well attended. At one time, more foreign trade was carried on by the burgh than at present. Seldom more than one cargo of wood, containing about 15,000 feet, has been annually imported. Much coal and lime is received from Cumberland; and a great many articles of general traffic, such as flour, herrings, groceries, haberdasheries, hardware, iron, lead, slates, freestone, &c. are conveyed from Liverpool and other places, both by land and sea. Bone-dust and guano are also frequently imported. From the parish of Kirkcudbright are regularly exported, corn, potatoes, meal, wool, turnips, beans, black-cattle, sheep, salmon, grass-seed, timber, staves. From the 5th of April 1842 to the 5th of April 1843, there were sent from the port of Kirkcudbright 50 quarters of wheat, 338 quarters of barley, 5268 quarters of oats, 6 quarters of beans, 8 tons of meal, 688 tons of potatoes, 7840 stones of wool, 60 tons of turnips, and 80 cwt. of rye-grass-seed. 721 black-cattle, and 12,005 sheep, were also exported from Whitsunday 1842 to Whitsunday 1843.

*Means of Communication.*—The means of communication which the parish enjoys are excellent. Two commodious steam-boats sail regularly from Kirkcudbright to Liverpool, once in the week in summer, and once in the fortnight in winter. Two coaches

visit Kirkcudbright daily from Dumfries; and, exclusive of the carriers from the adjoining parishes, there are carriers weekly from Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dumfries, Stranraer, Newton Stewart, New Galloway, and Gatehouse of Fleet. The London mail arrives at the post-office twice in the day.

The roads in the parish are kept in good repair. The turnpike road, about a mile and three-quarters in length, is perfectly smooth and level.

There are only two bridges in the locality worthy of notice, and both are over the Dee between the parishes of Kirkcudbright and Tongland. The old bridge, which is still in good repair, was built upwards of 110 years ago, and cost only between L.400 and L.500: it has two arches. The new bridge, completed in 1808, cost L.7350. It consists of one large arch of 110 feet span, and three small arches on each side.

*Harbours.*—The parish of Kirkcudbright contains two good harbours. In the harbour at the town, vessels often disload at the beach and load in the dock. One side of the dock is of wood, and the other two sides are of stone.

The river opposite the harbour is 30 feet deep at spring-tides, and 500 feet in breadth. At neap-tides, its depth is from 20 to 25 feet, and its breadth about 400 feet. Below the harbour is a ford, by which the river may be sometimes crossed, the depth of water upon it on some singular occasions being not more than 1½ foot.\*

There is another harbour about two miles and a-half from the mouth of the river, called Torrs' Lake, or Manxman's Lake. Here almost any number of vessels might lie in safety on a clay bottom. At four hours of flood, there is generally a depth of from 14 to 16 feet of water. Before reaching it, a bar, which cannot be crossed by ordinary vessels at low water, extends across the channel, but at half-flood there are from 10 to 12 feet of water upon it. Two towers and a lighthouse lately erected on the island of Little Ross, kept in one line bearing south-west, lead over the bar in the deepest water. For this harbour vessels frequently run in bad weather, but before they can gain admittance to it, they have often to anchor at the Ross-road in from two to three fathoms water. Many fatal accidents have occurred from

\* In the severe winter of 1813-14, the river opposite the town became completely frozen over, and passengers regularly crossed it upon the ice; even some individuals went across on horseback. Such an event had never before been heard of.

mariners mistaking other inlets for the entrance to the Dee. The lighthouse on Little Ross will now be seen from a great distance, and serve as a beacon to direct shipping, but particularly stranger vessels, to a haven of safety. The lantern is about 50 feet above the level of the sea at high-water. The light is a revolving one, producing a bright flash every five seconds.

*Police.*—The Rural Police of the stewardry consists of a superintendent and eleven officers. The superintendent and one of the officers reside in the town. This officer's district comprehends the parishes of Kirkcudbright, Rerwick, Tongland, and Trognholm. The burgh has one police officer in its constant employment, and two additional officers receive salaries for assisting to keep the peace of the town and other public services. There are besides a harbour-master and some steward-officers in the parish.

*Steward Court.*—A Steward Court is held within the town for ordinary cases every Friday during session, and a Commissary Court when business requires, the Steward-substitute being generally the presiding judge. A Small Debt Court for the disposal of cases where the claim is under L.8, 6s. 8d., is held once in the fortnight. From the legal knowledge, acuteness, and patience of the Judge-Ordinary, this Court has become very popular. The number of cases disposed of in it during the last year was 272, exclusive of those decided in the Small Debt Circuit Court. In the Steward Court, during the last year, were tried, with or without a jury, no fewer than 59 criminal actions. Both the magistrates of the burgh and the justices of the peace also sometimes hold courts for disposing of civil and criminal business.

*Banks.*—There are two branches of banks in the town of Kirkcudbright, namely, one of the Bank of Scotland and another of the Western Bank.

*Water.*—The town is excellently supplied with water, brought in leaden pipes from springs at the distance of nearly half a mile from the main cistern. This useful work was completed in 1763, and cost L. 440 Sterling. The burgh defrayed about one-half of the expense, and the inhabitants the other. Even in the dry summers of 1826 and 1842, there was no great scarcity of water.

*Markets.*—The markets in general are supplied with abundance of provisions, and prices are moderate.

*Assessments.*—The inhabitants of the town enjoy a complete ex-

emption from all local assessments, such being paid from the burgh revenue.\*

*Education.*—Kirkcudbright is well provided with the means of education. There are no fewer than eleven schools, six of them endowed, and five unendowed. Three of the endowed, namely, the Grammar, the Commercial, and the English schools, are united, and form the Academy of Kirkcudbright. This institution is under the patronage of the magistrates and town-council, and the salaries of the masters are paid by the burgh. There are nearly 200 pupils constantly attending the academy, and the fees for one branch of education vary from 2s. to 7s. 6d. per quarter. In the classical departments are taught Latin, Greek, and French, with ancient geography, &c. Attached to the grammar school is a library consisting of between 300 and 400 volumes of useful literature. It was instituted by the present master in 1837. The teacher of the grammar school is allowed a yearly salary of L.50; and he realizes by fees about L.60. In the commercial department are taught mathematics, navigation, geography, book-keeping, arithmetic, writing, &c. The teacher receives a salary of L.50; and his annual fees amount to about L.90. The master of the English school has a yearly salary of L.40; and his fees on an average amount to L.60. In this class are taught history, geography, composition, and the principles of the English language. The Academy of Kirkcudbright has long maintained a high reputation. It can boast among its teachers of Dr Cririe, afterwards one of the masters of the High School of Edinburgh; Mr Thomas M'Millan of Bellerigg, long a zealous, efficient, and celebrated instructor; and Mr Robert Mitchell, subsequently one of the masters of the New Academy, Edinburgh.

There is one other endowed school in the town, namely, a females' school, where needle-work and some other branches are taught. The mistress of the Ladies' school receives from the funds of the burgh a salary of L.20. The master of another school is allowed an annual gratuity of L.10, one-half of which is paid by the burgh, and the other by the Countess of Selkirk. Seventy scholars attend this school, and the fees, which vary from 2s. to 2s. 6d. per quarter, amount annually to L.30: no school-room is provided. There are three other unendowed schools in the town, namely, one containing 109, another 50, and the third 40

\* Revenue of the burgh during the last year L.1131; the debts amounted to L.5587, namely, L.1803 mortified money, and L.3784 borrowed money.

pupils; fees varying from 1s. 8d. to 3s. per quarter. About 100 children are educated gratuitously from a collection made yearly in the parish church, and the interest of money mortified for the purpose. In the town, classes almost constantly exist for the ornamental branches of education. There are two endowed schools in the country, each of the teachers of which has a house and garden, and L.25, 13s. 3d. of salary. These schools are generally attended by nearly 100 scholars. None of the fees exceed 3s. per quarter. There is likewise an unendowed school, attended by about 40 scholars; the fees in it are very moderate.

For about thirty years, a Sabbath school has been open in the town, and has been attended generally by 300 scholars. It is under the superintendence of the minister, assisted by the gratuitous labours of a few benevolent individuals.

From the opportunities of obtaining education which prevail, and of which the people seem disposed to take advantage, there are few or none above the age of seven years who cannot read.

*Literature.*—A few years ago, the town contained two circulating libraries. At present, neither of them is in active operation, cheap periodical publications having tended to supersede them. In 1777, the principal inhabitants of the district established a subscription library, for which they selected books of interest and merit. Of late years, the number of subscribers has rapidly decreased, and few new works have been obtained. Last winter, however, a new library was formed on the basis of the old, and the total number of subscribers now amounts to about 50. It is still impossible to predict what success may attend this institution.

The town contains one reading-room, supported by subscription. It receives no periodical works, but several Scotch and English newspapers. There are two printers' presses in Kirkcudbright, but no periodical works issue from them.

*Charitable and other Institutions.*—No alms-houses, poor-houses, or hospitals exist within the parish. A soup-kitchen, however, confers an incalculable benefit upon the poor during the dreary months of winter, by dispensing clean and wholesome nourishment at least three times a-week, either gratuitously or at a very small price.

*Savings' Bank.*—At Whitsunday 1842, a branch of the National Security Savings' Bank was established in Kirkcudbright. From its commencement until the 10th of May 1843, the deposits amounted to L. 423, 9s. 10d., and the sums withdrawn were very



trifling. The depositors are principally servants, both male and female, mechanics, and children of the middle class.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—During the last year the roll contained the names of 130 permanent paupers, with 30 who received occasional assistance. The poor are relieved principally by church collections, interest of money mortified for their use, and alms distributed in private. The church collections amounted last year to L. 140, 8s. 6d.; contributions from heritors and burgh, L. 80; mortifications, &c. L. 38, 17s.; total, L. 259, 5s. 6d.\* It is impossible to estimate the sum bestowed in private charity. The allowance of each pauper from the sessional fund varies from 12s. to L. 6 annually. There are several charities, foundations, and mortifications, where the magistrates and members of the town-council are sole trustees.

The poor in general evince little delicacy in applying for parochial relief: they do not consider it degrading to solicit charity.

*Prison.*—The number of persons committed to the prison of Kirkcudbright from 1st April 1842 to 1st April 1843, was 85 criminals and 15 debtors. The offences or crimes for which the criminals were committed are the following:

For child murder, . . . . .	1	Breach of the peace, . . . . .	9
Theft, . . . . .	29	Uttering base coin, . . . . .	2
Assault, . . . . .	12	Exposing children, . . . . .	2
Masterful begging, . . . . .	5	Contempt of court, . . . . .	1
Malicious mischief, . . . . .	4		—
Breach of Game acts, . . . . .	13		Criminals, 85
Fishing, . . . . .	6		Debtors, 15
Procuring money on false pretences, 1			—
			Total committed, 100

The number of prisoners in confinement on 1st April 1842 was, criminals, 14; debtors, 3.

**Offences or crimes for which the criminals were committed.**

For theft, . . . . .	6	Procuring money on false pretences, 2	
House breaking, . . . . .	3		—
Uttering base coin, . . . . .	2		Criminals, 14
Forgery and fraud, . . . . .	1		Debtors, 3
			—
			17
			Committed, 100

Total number in one year, 117

The prison is pretty well secured, though it is only partially surrounded by a wall.

Proper means are used for preserving the health of the prisoners. Each is comfortably clothed, and receives three meals a-day of plain, but wholesome food. Their hands and faces are washed

\* The poor receive the rent of a house of about L. 200 value, bestowed upon them by the late Robert Lennox, Esq. of New York.

night and morning, and their feet once in the week. They are bathed once in the month, and the male prisoners are shaved twice in the week. Clean linens, clean stockings, and clean handkerchiefs are furnished to them every week, clean sheets every fortnight, and clean blankets every month. They are allowed to take daily exercise in the open air, and are supplied with various kinds of employment in their apartments.

The jail is under the particular superintendence of the County Prison Board, consisting of nine members, the steward, or his substitute *ex officio* being one.

The new system of prison discipline is in operation. The keeper, matron, and male warden reside within the precincts of the prison, and the prisoners are regularly visited by the chaplain and surgeon. The keeper acts as schoolmaster. Thirteen individuals were committed during the last year who could not read.

*Fairs.*—Hiring fairs for farm and domestic servants are held annually on the last Friday of March, and the last Friday of September. A day for hiring hay and harvest workers is likewise held yearly on the Friday, immediately preceding Keltonhill fair at midsummer, but not much business is transacted on any of the days. The ancient fairs of the burgh have fallen into desuetude.

*Inns.*—The parish contains twenty-seven inns, or houses licensed to sell spirituous liquors. It is probable, however, that the number will soon be materially diminished.

*Fuel.*—Coal is the principal article of fuel used both in the town and country. The average price is about 11s. per ton of 20 cwt. Wood and peat, which are procured in the neighbourhood, are also used, though in small quantities. The coal is generally brought from Cumberland.

*Constituency.*—The town contains 102, and the country 26 electors. Kirkcubright, with Dumfries, Annan, Lochmaben, and Sanquhar sends a member to Parliament.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The size of the town of Kirkcubright has considerably increased since the last Statistical Account was written. One building Society was formed in 1808, and another in 1810. These Societies erected in whole 112 houses, which have not only enlarged the town, but, from lowering the rents of houses, tended to augment the population of the parish. In 1838, a Gas Light Company was formed, and a great improvement has taken place in the lighting of the streets.

The people are now better fed, better clothed, and better

lodged than they were at the date of the last Statistical Account. Their food is of a superior quality. Formerly nearly all the butchers' meat they consumed was in a salted state; now, the market is well supplied during the whole year. At one time, nothing but oaten bread was used, except by the wealthiest class; now, the great body of the people occasionally partake of wheaten bread. The use of tea and coffee, those wholesome and enlivening beverages, is more common, and the consumption of spirituous liquors is considerably on the decline. The temperance Societies of the district have powerfully contributed to produce this beneficial effect.

Cloth of all kinds, but particularly the cloth worn by females, is much cheaper than it was fifty years ago, and the people, in general, are more comfortably clad.

They are, at the same time, more comfortably lodged, for from the great addition of houses, so many families are not at present crowded into one house, as was customary at one time; and the houses, themselves, which are generally of two storeys in height, are cleaner and better aired, and consequently less apt to engender or diffuse infectious and malignant distempers. The pernicious effect of the window duty is here often experienced by the lower ranks of society, for proprietors not unfrequently build up windows, which practice both disfigures their houses, and prevents the apartments of their tenants from being properly ventilated.

May 1843.

## PARISH OF TWYNHOLM.

PRESBYTERY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT, SYNOD OF GALLOWAY.

THE REV. JOHN GORDON, MINISTER.

### L.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name, &c.*—THE present parish of Twynholm was formed by the union of the two parishes of Twynholm and Kirkchrist. The origin of the name of the latter of these parishes is obvious. The meaning of the former name is not so certain. According to Chalmers, the name Twynholm, as now spelled, is a corruption of Twynham, or Twynhame, and this name is derived from the British word Twyn, a *bank* or *hillock*, to which the Saxon

ham, *a dwelling*, has been added. If this etymology can be relied on, the name is sufficiently descriptive of the situation of the church of Twynholm.

The time when the parishes of Kirkchrist and Twynholm were united, is uncertain. It is known, however, that the union took place in the course of the seventeenth century. Kirkchrist was a separate parish in 1605. In Blaeu's Atlas, published in 1654, Kirkchrist has the symbol of a church put to it, as if it had still been the church of a separate parish. But, in 1684, when Symson wrote his account of Galloway, the church of Kirkchrist had been long in ruins. From these circumstances, it is probable that the union of the parishes took place soon after 1654,—the time when Blaeu's Atlas was published.

*Extent.*—The parish of Twynholm, as now constituted, is about ten miles long, by nearly three broad, where the length and breadth are the greatest. Its figure is a sort of oblong, widest at the centre, and tapering towards the northern and southern extremities, till it ends almost in a point. It is understood to contain about 16.7 square miles.

*Boundaries.*—It is bounded on the north by the parishes of Girthon and Balmaghie; on the east, by Tongland and the river Dee, which separates it from the parish of Kirkcudbright; and on the south and west, by Borgue.

*Topographical Appearances.*—In the northern part of Twynholm the hills rise to a considerable height, and consequently some of the lands in that part of the parish are incapable of cultivation, and used solely for the pasture of sheep and black-cattle; but in the southern part, where it approaches the Dee, there is to be found excellent land, both for cropping and pasturage. Like most of the land in this part of the kingdom, the surface is very irregular, and even in the richest cropping districts, knolls rise up in the middle of the corn fields, and the rocks protrude to the very surface of the ground. The whole parish appears to rest upon a bed of whinstone. We have no sandstone, and granite occurs only in the shape of large boulders; which, however, are to be found in great abundance in many places.

*Rivers.*—The only rivers worth mentioning are the Dee, and its tributary, the Tarff, forming part of the eastern boundary of the parish; but the account of these rivers will more naturally belong to some of the neighbouring parishes. There is, however, abundance of water throughout the whole of Twynholm, supplied by a number of small streams that fall into these two rivers.

We have also several sheets of water of considerable extent. The largest of these, Loch Whinyeon, lies at the head of Twynholm, on the borders of Girthon. The waters of this loch formerly found a vent by Glengap burn, which carried them into the Tarff; but a tunnel has lately been driven for a considerable way through a hill, which has diverted them into another course, for the purpose of driving the cotton-mills at Gatehouse.

In the former Statistical Account it is said, that, with the exception of some old trees about Compston, there were very few in the parish. It is mentioned, at the same place, that plantations of considerable extent had been made by Lord Daer on the lands belonging to the Earl of Selkirk. These plantations have thriven well, and add greatly to the beauty of that part of the parish in which they are found. Mr M'Millan has also done much to beautify the lands of Barwhinnock, by small plantations tastefully laid down, so as to give both ornament and shelter to a portion of the parish which was formerly bare and exposed.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Eminent Men.*—The only man of eminence in literature known to have been connected with Twynholm is Alexander Montgomery, the *Homerus Scoticus* of Dempster, who lived at Compston Castle; and Symson mentions the tradition, that the poem of the "Cherry and the Slae" was written by him at this place, during the reign of James VI.

*Historical Events.*—The only well authenticated historical event connected with the parish which is worthy of note, is the residence of Edward I. of England for some time within its bounds. On the 17th July 1300, Edward entered Galloway. On the 19th he came to Kirkcudbright, and remained there for about ten days. He then crossed the Dee, and continued for about ten days more at Twynholm, waiting for provisions, which were brought to him by sea. On the 9th of August, he advanced to the Flete. During the time he remained at Twynholm, he made three several offerings at the altar of the chapel there, of 7s. each.\*

*Antiquities.*—There are a number of British forts in the parish of Twynholm. A tumulus was opened near one of these, and there was found a stone-coffin, containing human bones. There was also discovered in it an instrument resembling a hammer, with some coins.

\* In preparing a field in the glebe for green crop in the summer of 1842, the labourers found a number of small silver coins of the reign of Edward I., of about the size of a sixpence. Three of these are in the possession of the writer of this account.

It is stated that there was at one time a nunnery in the parish of Kirkchrist; and it is probable that the site must have been in the southern part of that parish, though the exact spot cannot be ascertained. There are still two farms there, bearing the name of High and Low Nunton, and the Nunmill adjoins to them. In the last Statistical Account it is mentioned, that there were the ruins of a castle upon the Nunton. Nothing now remains of these ruins, except some mounds covered with grass; but there are persons still living who remember the old tower, and the stairs by which, when children, they were in the practice of ascending it.

The only ancient building now remaining in the parish is the Castle of Compston, which is in a very ruinous condition, only three sides of the tower being left, and even these threatening to fall.

*Land-owners.*—There are sixteen proprietors in the parish. The chief of these are, the Earl of Selkirk, patron of the parish, who possesses nearly one-half of the land in value, though not in extent; Mr Maitland of Dundrennan, who resides at Compston, in this parish; and Mr M'Millan of Barwhinnock, who also resides upon his property here.

*Mansion Houses.*—The houses of Compston and Barwhinnock have been built by the present proprietors. They are substantial and convenient.

*Modern Buildings.*—The church was built in 1818. It is a neat and plain building, well suited to the parish, and furnishing accommodation for rather more than 400 sitters. The old church was built in 1730, at which time the situation of the church and churchyard were changed,—the former church having stood nearly a quarter of a mile south from the present site.

*Parochial Registers.*—The parochial records and registers have been by no means regularly kept, and part of them were consumed by fire. The oldest volume in existence contains the records of the kirk-session mixed up with a register of births and marriages from 1693 till 27th October 1703.

In this volume of records there are many entries that are interesting and valuable, as showing the state of the people at that time. From 27th October 1703 till 14th June 1730, there is a blank in the records. From this last date, there are occasional entries till May 21st 1741. There is then another blank, with the exception of a few loose leaves that appear to have been the scrolls of the session-clerk till 4th April 1762, and the entries are continued at intervals till 29th April 1804. The register of

births and marriages commences in 1763, but does not appear to have been very regularly kept.

For four years back, the session records and the register of births, deaths, and marriages have been regularly and correctly kept.

### III.—POPULATION.

The population in 1755, was	519
1763,	510
1791,	611
1794,	620
1801,	683
1811,	740
1821,	783
1831,	871
1841,	777
In the winter of 1838-9,	797
Of whom there were males,	378, and females, 419.

The partial decrease that has taken place since the census of 1831, is to be principally attributed to the circumstance, that, in 1831, extensive improvements were carried on, on the estate of Barwhinnock, and as these are now completed the labourers who were engaged in them have removed with their families.

About 250 of the above-mentioned inhabitants reside in the village of Twynholm, the rest in the country.

Yearly average of births for the last four years,	27	
of deaths,	11	
of marriages,	5½	
Of the population there are under 15,		299
upwards of 70,		29

Two families of independent fortune reside within the parish.

There are thirteen proprietors of land of the yearly value of L.50 and upwards. Of these four reside within the parish.

Number of unmarried men, bachelors, and widowers upwards of 50 years of age,	18
unmarried women upwards of 45,	32
families in parish,	157
inhabited houses,	127

There are five fatuous persons, of these, four are paupers, and two of them nearly blind.

Poaching in game, it is to be feared, prevails to a considerable extent, more particularly since steam navigation has been introduced into this quarter, and a ready market is thus found for any game that may be taken.

### IV.—INDUSTRY.

Of the families in the parish there are about ninety-seven directly dependent on agriculture for their support; fifteen are the families of tradesmen employed chiefly by the agriculturists; and

the remainder, with a few exceptions, are engaged in occupations, in which they owe their employment either to the two families of independent fortune that live in the parish, or to the farmers.

*Agriculture.*—The parish contains about 8502 acres Scots; of these there are in pasture, about 2600; under wood, about 260; arable, about 5500. The remainder may be supposed to be occupied with roads, water, &c.

*Rental.*—The total rental of the parish is about L.6250, allowing a fair value for the land in the possession of the respective proprietors.

The parish is chiefly agricultural, or rather, like most of the land in the district, agricultural and pastoral combined. There is one farm in the northern part of the parish principally stocked with black-faced sheep. The rest of the farms are stocked with black-cattle and white-faced sheep, and in most of them the different fields are brought under tillage in rotation. Besides the land incapable of cultivation, there are two farms containing above 500 acres of rich old pasture kept in perpetual grass, and in many of the farms a field or two is never ploughed for the sake of the old grass.

In the tillage farms, the most usual rotation of crops at present followed is, 1st, oats; 2d, oats; 3d, green crop; 4th, barley or oats; and in some cases, but rarely, wheat with grass seeds; 5th, rye-grass hay mown, and then the land is allowed to lie in pasture for four, five, or six years, according to the number of divisions on the farms. It is now becoming more common than it once was, to omit the second crop of oats after breaking up the field, and to follow the ley crop immediately by a green crop. Turnips are now the favourite green crop, and in a great proportion are eaten off by sheep. On one farm in which this system is pursued, and where the land is mostly sown out with wheat, the rye-grass crop is chiefly eaten by sheep instead of being mown. Lime is much used for improving land, and is generally applied to the green crop land in spring, before the turnips are sown. It is also laid upon old pasture lands to improve the grass.

*Live-Stock.*—The most common breed of cattle is the Galloway, which is much esteemed for the ease with which it is fattened, and for the quality of the beef. On one extensive farm the short-horned breed has been introduced. It grows to a greater weight than the native breed, and is fit for the shambles at an earlier age. The sheep are chiefly a cross between the Cheviot and the Lei-



chester. It is a common practice for the farmers to buy a large stock of sheep in autumn to eat off their turnip crop, and then to send them to Liverpool by steam, when fat. But besides this, more lambs are bred on the farms, than there were some years ago.

A great deal has been done of late years, both by proprietors and tenants, in draining wet lands; and in many of the farms, much still remains to be done in that way. It is scarcely to be expected, however, that this work will be extensively engaged in, or substantially executed, unless the proprietors come forward to bear a considerable proportion of the expense; and though some of them are ready to render every assistance, others leave the whole work to the tenant, to be executed or not as he may choose.

The duration of leases is very different, varying from three to nineteen years, but whether the leases be long or short, both the proprietors and tenants find it to be for their own interest that the occupants of the farms should be changed as seldom as possible, and hence the removal of an old tenant, if steady and industrious, is of rare occurrence.

The state of the farm buildings is generally good. The inclosures might in many cases be improved. It is only within these few years, that thorn hedges have been introduced, and kept in a proper state of repair by annual dressing. Proprietors are now beginning to see the superiority of such fences to the old stone dikes, are introducing them upon their estates, and, in many instances, undertaking the care of keeping them in repair.

The woods are generally well managed. They are mostly planted with about one-fourth of the plants oak; while larches, spruces, Scotch firs, &c. are put in for nurses. As the plantations grow, the soft woods are carefully thinned out, and the oaks at last remain alone. The woods on the property of Compston show the advantage to be derived from careful management, both in regard to beauty and profit.

*Manufacture.*—The only manufacture in the parish which is worth mentioning, is a mill for carding and spinning wool in the village of Twynholm. There is also, under the same roof, and belonging to the same owner, a mill for dressing flax; but both these mills are used solely for country purposes. The farmers and others in the neighbourhood bring the wool they have retained for family use, or the flax they may have grown for the same purpose, and have it prepared here for working up at their own houses.

## V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Town.*—There is no market-town within the parish. The nearest market is Kirkcudbright, which is about three miles distant from the church; and Gatehouse, distant about six miles in an opposite direction. The principal cattle-market is Castle-douglas, distant nine miles.

The village of Twynholm has increased considerably within these few years. The population is now about 250. As there is no manufacture to give employment to any considerable portion of the inhabitants, it is rather to be regretted that the population should increase. In country villages, where the people depend almost solely on agricultural labour, they are often at a loss for employment whenever their numbers exceed the demand of the immediate neighbourhood.

*Means of Communication.*—The great road from Carlisle to Portpatrick lies through the centre of the parish, and consequently the mail passes daily to and from Dumfries. The post-town is Kirkcudbright, but it would be a great convenience for the parish if a post-office were established in the village. The turnpike roads are kept in excellent order, and the state of the parish roads is now very respectable. They have been much improved within these few years, principally by the exertions and contributions of the gentlemen connected with the parish.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church is placed in the very centre of the population, and almost in the centre of the parish, with easy access from all parts. The original site of the church was nearly a quarter of a mile distant from the place where the church now stands. The site was changed in 1730. The present church was built in 1818, and is in a good state of repair. The size is sufficient for the accommodation of all the parishioners. The only drawback is, that in the division of the church, portions of the area are assigned in proportion to the valuations of the different heritors, not in proportion to the accommodation they require. Hence, while more room than is needed is allotted to one property, there are other properties left with very insufficient accommodation, and there is almost no provision made for the village population. The church affords accommodation for about 410 sitters. All the sittings are allocated.

The manse was built in 1835-6, and is a large and convenient house. The glebe is large, containing about 28 acres Scots. It was obtained by an excambion with Lord Selkirk, the patron and

principal heritor for the two glebes of Twynholm and Kirkchrist, about seventy years ago.

The stipend consists of 97 bolls, 2 firlots, 2 pecks, 3½ lippies of oatmeal, and the same quantity of barley, with L. 55, 8s. 4d. in money, derived from lands where the teinds are exhausted, and including L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements. The average amount of the stipend for the last five years has been about L. 226, 0s. 11d. besides the above L. 8, 6s. 8d.

There is no other place of worship of any description within the parish besides the parish church.

Number of families attending the Established Church, 145; Roman Catholics, 7; other denominations, 5; total, 157. Individuals belonging to the Established Church, 734; Roman Catholics, 34; other denominations, 29; total, 797. The Roman Catholics are mostly of Irish descent. They and the Seceders attend their respective places of worship in Kirkcudbright.

Divine service is well attended by the greater number of the parishioners. There are, however, some who are careless of divine ordinances, and who neglect to train their children in church-going habits. This is partly to be ascribed to the unfortunate circumstance, that they have no sittings in church which they can call their own; but there is also a disinclination to attend. The average number of communicants for some years past has been 300.

*Education.*—There are at present three schools in the parish. The parochial school is situated close by the church, and in it all the ordinary branches are taught, besides mathematics, Latin, and French to those who choose. The higher branches of learning are, however, seldom in demand. There is a female school at the Doon, in the south end of the parish. The school-house at the Doon was built, and a salary is allowed to the teacher by the Noble family of St Mary's Isle, who also take a deep interest in the prosperity of the school, and pay it frequent visits. The parochial schoolmaster has the maximum salary, and his fees may amount to from L. 12 to L. 15 a-year. A Sabbath school has been in operation for four years, and much benefit has been derived from it. The average attendance at present is about 50. Several of the children of Roman Catholic families attend, and seem to take as much interest in the religious instruction, as the children of Protestants.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid for some years back has been about 20,

besides 3 fatuous individuals who receive aid from a voluntary assessment of L.24 made by the heritors. To meet the demands thus occasioned, there are collections in church averaging L.35; regular donations from non-resident heritors, L.6, 1s.; interest of L.60 in bank, about L.1, 10s.; Do. of L.40 in private hands L.1, 8s.; total, L.43, 19s. There are, besides these, occasional donations from heritors and others connected with the parish, and donations made to the kirk-session on the occasion of proclamations. It is much to be feared, that, unless the burden be diminished by some means, the funds in the hands of the kirk-session will be exhausted, and then recourse must be had to a legal assessment. A voluntary assessment of L.20 was made by the heritors in the spring of 1839, to make up a deficiency which had accumulated in the course of the four preceding years, and thus to prevent the funds in the hands of the kirk-session being touched in the meantime.\*

*Inns.*—There are only two inns in the parish; one in the village, on the great road between Carlisle and Portpatrick, and the other at the ferry opposite to Kirkcudbright. Both are necessary; but the number should not be increased.†

*Fuel.*—The fuel used is almost solely coal from Cumberland, which is brought to Tongland harbour, within two miles of the centre of the parish. For some time back, individuals have sent or gone to Dalmellington for Scotch coal.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The system of agriculture has been much improved since the time when the last Statistical Account was written, and improvements are still in progress. The rental has consequently been greatly increased. In 1794, the rental was L.2960. It now amounts to about L.6250, being more than double the former amount.

At that time there were only a few old trees about Compston, and the plantations along the Dee had been newly made. These plantations have now grown to be both profitable and ornamental, and a good deal has been planted in other parts of the parish. It would be of advantage, and would add greatly to the beauty of the scenery, were the plantations to be extended still farther. In many

\* For some years back, the heritors have found it necessary to raise a voluntary assessment annually to meet the deficiencies occasioned by increased demands.

† Since the above was written another public-house has been established in the village, and though the person who keeps it is of a respectable character, still the evils anticipated have arisen from its establishment.

parts of the parish, still farther improvements might be made by draining, &c., which would increase the value of the land, and give occupation to the poor for a time. The introduction of steam navigation into the Dee has been of advantage to Twynholm, by opening up the Liverpool market for sheep and fat cattle. In consequence of this, the turnip husbandry has been greatly extended, and it might be extended still farther with advantage to the tenant and to the land.

It is desirable in a parish situated like Twynholm, that proprietors should not grant feus, as when houses are built they will be occupied, and thus there is introduced a population for which there is no employment. The evils arising from the introduction of such a population are obvious.

*Written in 1838.*

*Revised January 1844.*

## PARISH OF BORGUE.\*

PRESBYTERY OF KIRCUDBRIGHT, SYNOD OF GALLOWAY.

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name and Date of Erection.*—BORGUE, Senwick, and Kirkandrews, (as stated in the former Statistical Report,) were united about the year 1670. Borgue, or Borg, the general name of the united parishes, is derived from the Gaelic word *burg*, which signifies a little hill, and is certainly very descriptive either of the situation of the church, which is situated on a beautiful eminence in the middle of the parish, or of the general appearance of the district of land, which is remarkably unequal in its surface. Senwick, (originally Sandwick,) is compounded of *sand*, and *wick*, signifying a narrow neck of land. This is also very descriptive both of the situation and the soil. Kirkandrews evidently takes its name from the tutelary saint of Scotland, to whom it was dedicated.

*Figure and Extent.*—The parish of Borgue presents in our county map, the figure of a triangle, of which the Solway forms the

\* Drawn up by the Rev. Samuel Smith, late Minister of the parish.

base; the parish of Girthon, with a small portion of the river Fleet, one of the bounding sides; and the parish of Twynholm, with three miles of the estuary of the Dee, the other boundary line,—the vertex of the triangle being inserted like a wedge between these parishes. The greatest length is 10 miles, the greatest breadth 7. Its area may be computed at 25 square miles.

*Topographical Appearance.*—Along the southern coast, this parish offers a frontier of hard, and in some places precipitous rocks, to the waves of the Solway; which during the prevalence of the south-west winds, beat against it with great violence. At the Ross Hill and the Heads, called Borness and Muncraig, the cliffs rise to so great a height, and are disposed in forms so irregular and fantastic, as to be objects of much interest to the admirers of bold and picturesque scenery. The giddy heights over which you look downwards to the surging tide; remoter cliffs peaked and insulated, severed from the mainland; the restless flight and wild outcry of sea-fowl, scared from their perch; accompanied with the impression that for countless generations these same battlements on which you stand, have thus frowned defiance on the angry waters of the Atlantic, and repelled their fierce assaults; are fitted to awaken sentiments which at least border upon the sublime.

From the top of the Ross Hill, or from the island called Little Ross, a prospect meets the view, combining a wide expanse of sea, with a great variety of vale and mountain scenery. In particular, St Mary's Isle, clothed with wood of the finest foliage, and partially screening the course of the Dee, and the picturesque town of Kirkcudbright; the lofty mountain ranges of Cumberland, on the east; the Isle of Man; and the coast of Wigtonshire, are striking features in this lively prospect.

The most level tracts in the parish, are those which have formerly served as the beds of fresh water lakes. Enclosed by hills of every shape and form, these lakes were at one time very numerous. The greater part have now been carried away by deep drains, though enough still remain to furnish supplies of water to all the farms, not only for the purposes of agriculture, but also to give varieties of battlefield to the curlers, when the season comes round for enjoying their exhilarating sport.

*Hydrography.*—It may be mentioned, as the only circumstance worthy of notice under this head, that the whole sea-coast bears distinct marks of the sea having retreated in a gradual manner

from our shores. So far as can be judged from the rounded form of the stones, that form the now dry sea-beach, the regular lines of embankment raised at former periods by the waves, and the sand and shells cast up in other places where the coast is less rocky; we would infer it as a point clearly demonstrated, that the tide formerly rose at least twelve feet higher than it now does; in which case, it is evident that much of the low land of which our *carses* consist, was once under water.

There are appearances from which it might be suspected that, at a time still more remote, the tide had risen a great deal higher on our shores, but these are of a much less decisive character.

*Geology, Soil, &c.*—The rocks of this, as of the adjoining parishes belong to the transition class; forming a ramification of the great series, which is said to extend from St Abb's Head to Portpatrick. The rocks which predominate are greywacke, greywacke slate, and clay slate. The former of these, named provincially whinstone, is of blue or greyish colour, breaking irregularly; yet, as being of a very compact texture, and impervious to moisture, it answers as well as granite or the best sandstone, for the purposes of house or dike building. The rocks of this description, may be examined to advantage, any where along the shores of Borgue. They are in some places very distinctly stratified. At the Ross and Muncraigs Heughs, this is particularly noticeable, the beds being arranged in a variety of positions, often covered, and forming in many instances an angle of seventy or eighty degrees with the horizon, the dip being from the north-east to the south-west. In some instances strata of different inclinations are seen to meet, presenting in that case the form of a series of Gothic arches, rising one above another. Underneath the lowest of these, it occasionally happens, as may be supposed, that an empty space is left, whence originate the caves that are so frequent, and so attractive to lovers of the marvellous, on our Galloway shores. Whilst the rock above-mentioned forms the principal component part in the hills of this parish, there is connected with it, and usually incumbent upon it, another, which might appear to belong to a later formation. This latter is a soft, shivering, argillaceous stone, but partially stratified, mixed with earth of a reddish colour, and which, on exposure to the atmosphere, soon crumbles down to a soft or earthy slate. It is of the same nature probably as the shiver (German *schiefer*) of English miners.

These rocks alternate with each other over the surface in no

regular order, and are often observed in different portions of the same field. We are inclined to attribute the singular irregularity of the surface of Borgue to the circumstance now mentioned: wherever the greywacke has penetrated the bed of slate band, there a knoll makes its appearance; but where the stratum or covering of slate band is deeper, there is a body of arable soil of more uniform thickness.

*Soil.*—The soil which prevails most is what agriculturists term a free loam. This soil being derived, for the most part, from the rock last mentioned, contains the same component elements, but varies in its powers of nutrition according to the basis on which it rests, or other elements, such as sand and clay, with which it is occasionally mixed. Liable to be parched in dry weather, it produces in favourable seasons the most nutritious grasses, and is also well adapted for oats and barley. It wants depth and tenacity for wheat cropping, which was never successfully practised, and has long been entirely abandoned by the Borgue farmers. In those parts of the parish where the harder rocks reach the surface, a thinner and colder soil may be observed.

Under this general head, notice may be taken of an alluvial deposit, which is not, indeed, peculiar to Borgue, but which here bears an unusually large proportion to the other soils, and is at the same time most obviously of a perfectly distinct character. We refer to that remarkable formation of hills which, from their shape or some other circumstance, are in Galloway called Drums. Of these there are not fewer than thirty in Borgue, which may average one-fourth of a mile in length, and from 200 to 300 yards across. The following are the most remarkable circumstances that have been noticed, as to their structure and composition. 1. They have no conformity, either in shape or in the materials of which they consist, with the lands adjoining. 2. Their form is that of a segment of a cylinder, having an elevation that varies from 50 to 150 feet, and falling away at each extremity by a gradual slope to the ground contiguous. 3. Those which have been examined in this and the adjoining parishes, with one or two partial exceptions, extend lengthways from north to south, with a slight inclination to the south-east. 4. In most instances, the ground adjoining, at least on one side, is low and marshy. 5. In no instances that we are aware of, do they contain any solid rocks, nor any alluvial materials but what have the appearance of having been transported from a considerable distance; whilst some of the com-



ponent substances, the granite stones or boulders more particularly, must of necessity have been borne to their present position from a distance of several miles, as the nearest granite mountains are those in Girthon and Twynholm, eight miles distant. 6. The stones, both of a larger and smaller size, have that rounded form which commonly results from the action of water.

It would be presumptuous in one, but slightly acquainted with the elements of geology, to theorize as to the origin of this description of hills, or the causes by which their singular formation has been determined. It does, however, appear to the writer, that the subject is well worthy the careful consideration of those who are more conversant with this interesting science. Nor does it seem rash to conjecture, that a rigid scrutiny of the phenomena which they present in various parts of the country, would reflect light on the action to which the earth's surface has in former times been subjected, and the agents by which that action was caused.

The soil now mentioned might seem well suited for tillage, being smooth and unbroken. In reality, it is found the most worthless of our Galloway lands. So tenacious is the subsoil, consisting of a hard gravelly clay, without any alluvial matter, that the superfluous moisture in wet weather cannot sink through it; nor again in dry seasons does the moisture make its way upwards to the roots of the plants. Draining, after the manner of tile-draining, has lately been tried by a spirited proprietor, and appears likely to be attended with favourable results.

*Mines.*—An unsuccessful attempt was recently made to discover copper ore on the estate of Earlston. Iron was found, but not of a rich description.

*Botany.*—As already stated, there is here a very considerable variety of soil and exposure. The sea coast presents an excellent field for investigation, and the broken nature of the land affords facilities to the botanist, which a more closely cultivated district would deny. The following may serve as a specimen of the Flora of Borgue, all the plants mentioned, being met with in greater or less abundance in different parts of the parish.

*Crithmum maritimum*  
*Crambe maritima*  
*Eryngium maritimum*  
*Euonymus Europæus*  
*Scilla verna*  
*Statice Limonium*

*Glaucium luteum*  
*Artemisia maritima*  
*Sanguisorba officinalis*  
*Salsola Kali*  
*Solanum Dulcamara*  
*Arum maculatum*

*Symphytum officinale*  
*Chelidonium majus*  
*Berberis vulgaris*  
*Malva sylvestris*  
 ——— *moschata*  
*Gerauium sanguineum*,

and most of the more common varieties.

Habenaria viridis  
 Echium vulgare  
 Cladium Mariscus  
 Typha latifolia

Sparganium ramosum  
 Trollius Europæus  
 Valeriana dioica  
 ———— officinalis

Anagallis tenella  
 Parnassia palustris  
 Narthecium ossifragum  
 Drosera rotundifolia

all found abundant in most of the bogs.

*Zoology—Fishes.*—From the limited opportunity of collecting information, the report on this and the following heads is necessarily very imperfect.

Salmon, it is well known, frequent the Dee in great numbers. But all the nets which as yet have been productive, are erected above that part of the river which is bounded by the Borgue shores. Were the tacksman at liberty to extend stake-nets far enough across the extensive sands which form the eastern boundary of the parish, a considerable quantity of fish might probably be taken there. The interests of other proprietors, it would appear, does not admit of this. Last year, a fishery was established below the bar, at the mouth of the river. The nets here employed are of that kind so well known on the east coast of Scotland by the name of bag-net. This kind of net, so common elsewhere, is employed in no other part of the river. At the Ross, it has been found to answer very well. As the present is only the second year of this fishery, no proper return can be given. Hitherto, we believe the fishing has proved remunerating. The salmon caught are of the finest quality, being accounted the best of any taken in the Dee. A salmon fishery, which was also attempted for the first time this season off the South Park shore, at the entrance into Brighthouse Bay, has proved, for the present, a losing concern. At times, a good many salmon were taken; but, as we are informed, the supply was so unsteady, that the returns would not cover the outlay. This remark will also apply to the fisheries formerly attempted at Kirkandrews and Knockbrex, and which are now abandoned. Bag-nets were used at South Park; at the other two places, the common stake-net was employed.

Off the Ross, there is excellent white fishing ground, and during winter, the fishing at this station proves very remunerating to the few fishermen belonging to our coast, who engage in it to a limited extent.

As there is no regular demand in the neighbourhood, and only one opportunity per week by steam to Liverpool, there is no inducement to the expenditure of capital in smacks or trawl-nets. The Whitehaven boats very often travel over this ground. It is

also visited at times by boats from Liverpool. These boats fish principally for soles.

Amongst the fishes caught in the Dee or off the coast, are, salmon, grilse, sea-trout and herling, plaice, soles, and several of the common kinds of flounders; gurnard, two kinds; mullet, ray or skate, ling, cod, whiting, bream, fishing-frog, and dog-fish. Eels of a considerable size are very abundant. Porpoises are common off the coast. Among those which visit the Dee occasionally are mackerel and herrings. Last year, several fine haddocks were caught off the Ross, said to be the first time they were seen on the Borgue coast. Blochan, as they are here named, are at times met with in considerable numbers. They seldom remain above two or three tides. Simpson, who wrote an account of the state of Galloway towards the close of the seventeenth century, bears testimony to the excellence of the white fishings of Borgue in these words: "Upon the coast are many sorts of white fish, one kind whereof is called by the inhabitants grey heads, which are a very fine white fish, big like haddocks, some greater, some lesser."

*Birds.*—Under this head may be mentioned, pheasant, partridge, black grouse, snipe, and landrail, wild duck, widgeon, several kinds of teal, the golden plover, the coot, woodcock, lapwing, heron, night-hawk, and several of the more common kinds of hawks:—on the sea coast, five or six kinds of gulls, cormorant, puffin, sea-pyot, curlew, red-shank, sheldrake, goshawks, which build on the cliffs at Ross and Muncraig. Ravens also are always to be found about the Ross.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Antiquities, &c.*—Borgue possesses its share of those rude monuments, by which the deeds and character of our ancestors, antecedent to the period of written history, are saved from utter oblivion.

The British forts, or, as are they vulgarly called, moats, are probably the most ancient of these. Five of them are to be seen in Borgue,—two in low sheltered situations, having a considerable stream of water flowing past on the one side. Two others are on the summits of high hills, and command an extensive view of the surrounding country in all directions. The following are the dimensions of that near High Borgue, called the moat or Dun of Boreland: height from the bottom of the foss, 30 feet; width of foss at bottom, 12 feet; do. at top, 40 feet; circumference of

moat at top, 300 feet. There adjoins this another in a lower situation, and of somewhat larger extent, which, at one period, was evidently surrounded with water. In the lake whose waters had once surrounded this fort, fragments of spears and an old silver coin, as mentioned in the former report, have been found.

There are no traces of Roman occupancy in this or the adjoining parishes to the west of the Dee, lower down than Balmaghie and Kells. It seems probable, from this circumstance, that the Roman legions crossed over from the territory of the Selgovae, where their remains are numerous, at some ford higher up the river; and directed their course to Wigtonshire, through the mountainous range extending from New Galloway to Newton-Stewart.

There are two other strengths similar to those already described, which are considered to have been Danish forts, having a remarkable situation on the range of the high cliffs at Borness and Muncraig. That on the Borness shore has been protected on the landward side by a double trench of considerable depth, whilst a precipice of 200 feet perpendicular height rendered it sufficiently secure from any assault by water, with which, indeed, it is nearly surrounded.

Next to the moats, the works of art in Borgue which bear the stamp of greatest antiquity, are the ruins of what appears to have been a castle of considerable strength, on the side of a small bay half a mile westward from Kirkandrews. The foundations only of this building, which bears the name of Castle Hayne, can now be traced, indicating, however, that the walls have been of great thickness and some extent. No mortar has been used to cement the stones,—the interstices having been filled with earth and rubbish.

At the entrance of Ross Bay, on a promontory called Manor Point, may still be traced the foundations of a strong wall, which had enclosed a triangular piece of ground, somewhat less than an acre in extent. The character of this ruin is not unlike that near Kirkandrews. It is described by Simpson as the ruins of a castle, of which no traditions were then extant. The links of a gold or silver chain and some other antique remains have been found here; but not of such a defined character as to show whether they belonged to the British, Roman, Irish, or Saxon period of our history.

The Tower of Balmangan, the Castle of Plunton, the churches of Senwick and Kirkandrews, both in ruins, and remarkable for

their picturesque situation ; belong, it is probable, to the fifteenth or sixteenth centuries, and have not, for about 150 years, been applied to the uses for which they were respectively designed.

Kirkandrews village itself is represented as a place of some note in earlier times. Here, according to Simpson, and before his day, horse and foot races were periodically exhibited, and fairs were held within the precincts of the burying-ground, where multitudes from all quarters assembled. Not far distant, at the farm called Rottraw, was a tower, of which the traces have now entirely disappeared.

It may be mentioned, that many of the names of places in Borgue, such as Auchenhay, Knochbrex, Kildrarroch, Risk, Barma-gahan, give evidence that a Celtic or Celto-Irish people once inhabited the country.

*Eminent Characters.*—The following may be mentioned as having some claim at least to local celebrity. James Menteith was minister of Borgue for upwards of forty years at the close of the seventeenth, and beginning of the eighteenth century. He was called from Kilmarnock, whither he had come from Ireland a few years before, by the heritors of Borgue, and the presbytery of Kirkcudbright. Menteith is described by the older inhabitants, on the report of a preceding generation, as a man of remarkable piety and zeal ; but as having his mind tinctured, in a considerable degree, with the superstition of these times.

A manuscript account of his ministerial life and experience, accompanied with his last advices to his children, is about to be published, and will be found well worthy of perusal.

Thomas Rainy, a native of Carleton, in the parish of Borgue, left his native country about the middle of the last century, and, having realized a considerable fortune in the Island of Dominica, he entered into a correspondence with the minister and heritors of Borgue, with a view to ameliorate the circumstances of the poor, and the moral and spiritual condition of the parish. The result of this correspondence was a compact with the heritors, by which, whilst they agree to make a handsome addition to the minister's stipend, Mr Rainy engages to mortify L.3000 for building and helping to endow an academy, and a considerable additional sum for behoof of the poor's funds, to be at the disposal of the kirk-session.

These conditions have been handsomely fulfilled by both parties, and Borgue, since the year 1803, has possessed one of the

most flourishing and best conducted academies in the south of Scotland. The correspondence above-mentioned reflects much credit on the talents, and the warm and enlightened patriotism of Mr Rainy.

An Agricultural Survey of Galloway, which embodies much useful information on the subject of which it treats; was drawn up, in the year 1808, by the late Rev. S. Smith, then minister of Borgue.

*Land-owners.*—The principal land-owners are, the Earl of Selkirk; Sir John Gordon of Earlston, Bart. ;\* Alexander Murray, Esq. of Broughton, M. P. for the county; James Murray M'Culloch, Esq. of Ardwal; Andrew Pringle, Esq. of Borgue; Adam Currie, Esq. of Dunrod, &c. Of these, Sir John Gordon alone is resident.

Fifty years ago, there were a great many residing proprietors, whose estates have now fallen into other hands.

*Mansion-House.*—At Earlston, a very handsome and spacious mansion-house has lately been erected, which, with its thriving and extensive woods, is now regarded as forming the principal ornament of the parish.

### III.—POPULATION.

Population in 1755, as returned by Dr Webster,	697	
1793,	771	
1821, . . . . .	858	
1831, . . . . .	947	
1836, . . . . .	920	
1837, . . . . .	936	
1838, . . . . .	958	
1839, . . . . .	972	
1840, . . . . .	995	
1841,	1118	
Number of persons under 15 years of age at last census (1841),	430	
above 70,	31	
80,	10	
Number of families in the parish,		201
proprietors,		4
farmers who pay from L.100 to L.200 per annum,		9
Do. L.200 to L.300 per annum or upwards,		15
Do. L.50 to L.100,		4
Total of persons employed in agriculture,		200
mechanics and manufacturers,		28
shop-keepers,		3
carriers,		2
Number of fatuous,		1

*Character of the People.*—Of the habits of the people we can speak in favourable terms. They may be characterized in general

\* Sir J. Gordon died January 8th 1843, and was succeeded by his son Sir William, still a minor.

as charitable, yet frugal, cheerful, industrious, and well informed, according to the stations which they occupy.

Smuggling, which at one time prevailed to a great extent, is now extinct. It will be well for us when the same can be said of poaching, a practice which is at present the source of grievous injury to the morals of this and several adjoining parishes. The facilities possessed for transporting game by the steam-packet which now plies betwixt Liverpool and Kirkcudbright, has tended to augment this mischief.

The provincial, if not national, games of quoits and curling are practised in Borgue with unabated ardour. From an early period, the youth of the parish discover something like an innate relish for the latter of these sports; and it is not until his sinews have been unstrung by the feebleness of declining life, that the veteran curler reluctantly forbears to wield his broom. The friendly parties who visit our rink from neighbouring parishes, we have reason to believe, uniformly carry home a good report of the *reception* they meet with here.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

##### *Agriculture.*—

The number of acres occasionally in tillage is	8500	imperial measure.
uncultivated,	4364	
Total,	12,864	

It is not considered that any part of what is now uncultivated could, with advantage, be brought under tillage.

*Rent of Land.*—The average rent of land may be stated at 17s. per acre. That of arable land, at L.1.

The average rent for grazing is at the rate of L.4 for an ox, and L.6 for a cow, if straw or coarse hay be given on the field. Without any fodder, for an ox, L.3; for a cow, L.4, 4s.; for a sheep, 18s.

*Wages.*—To a common labourer in summer, 2s.; in winter, 1s. 6d. An artisan in summer, 3s.; in winter, 2s.

*Live-Stock.*—Cattle are almost exclusively of the Galloway breed, and the greatest attention is paid by the farmers to have their stock pure, and of the most correct symmetry. The remark of the former reporter is as applicable as ever, that “the farmers here are as attentive to the shapes of cattle as a jockey to the proportions of a horse. Even an eye or an ear is not to be overlooked.” Some of their observations may appear whimsical, but in general they are certainly well founded, for one of good pro-

portions is always easily kept, soon fattened, and, as Mr Ramsay has observed, "commonly tells well at the end of the balance." The sheep pastured here, for some time, chiefly consisted of the Leicester breed; and, more recently, a breed from the Cheviot ewe, crossed with the Leicester ram, has been preferred, as more hardy, and the mutton superior.

*Husbandry.*—The recent introduction of bone manure, and the opportunity afforded of communication by steam with the English markets, have materially affected the system of husbandry of this district.

Turnip husbandry has very much increased; the soil of Borgue is particularly well adapted for it; and, from its kindly dry nature, is likely to derive from it permanent benefit. At the same time, from the unarable character of the surface in many fields, and from the lightness of the soil, it is not desirable to push tillage beyond the necessities of the winter fodder required for cattle, on most of the farms.

The rotation of cropping considered to be the best adapted for the parish in general is the following: 1st year, a crop of oats; 2d, turnips; 3d, barley or oats; 4th, hay or pasture; 5th, pasture; 6th, do.; 7th, do.; and so on for two or three years more if the contingencies of the farm will admit; care being taken to lime and dung the fallow sufficiently, and to feed off with sheep. Land thus partially grazed, on account of the nutritive qualities of its pasture, pays better than under a close system of tillage.

*Improvements, &c.*—For some time after the close of the war, agriculture was in a state of stagnation. During the last fifteen years, improvements have again advanced rapidly. By Sir John Gordon, extensive plantations have been outspread along the steep slopes of his demesne and the adjoining farms; much has also been done by the same spirited proprietor in draining and cultivating moss; a considerable extent of which, in the neighbourhood of his policy, is now converted into good meadow. Mr Ireland of Rat-traw has also planted and enclosed, in a very judicious manner, a considerable extent of his property in Borgue.

Many of the farms on the Earl of Selkirk's estate have, in the course of a few years, completely changed their appearance. This is partly due to the intelligence and enterprise of his tenantry,—but still more to the liberal encouragement given by his Lordship for liming and draining wherever required.

The good effects of judicious liming are also apparent on the



lands of Borgue, and Low Carleton, which yield not less than a third (we believe it might be stated at a half,) more produce than before the application of this powerful stimulant.

The farm-steadings and enclosures which, forty years ago, were of the most miserable description, are now in general good and sufficient.

*Fences.*—Stone walls from five to six feet in height, are the fences in common use. For constructing these, Borgue enjoys the advantage of numerous quarries, which yield an abundant supply of stones of the best description.

The soil is considered too hard and rocky for planting hedges, —at the same time, with right management, this useful fence might be more frequently employed, and would be found serviceable in giving the shelter so much wanted in exposed situations against the severe gales which are here prevalent.

*Leases.*—The land-owners of Borgue, to the hurt of their tenants and the injury of their estates, were for some time very backward in giving leases, and much of the land was let from year to year. The views of proprietors on this point appear now to be changed, and the lands of Borgue are let for the most part on leases varying from fifteen to nineteen years.

*Produce.*—The following table furnishes as accurate an account as can well be given of the amount and value of the gross produce. We have not the means of coming at the exact truth on each head.

Grain of all kinds from 1500 English acres, 25 bushels per acre, equal to 37,500 bushels, (most part potato, Hopetoun, and common oats.) at 2s. 3d. per bushel,	L.4218 15 0
170 imperial acres of potatoes, at 12 Galloway bolls, of 8 cwt. each, per acre, at 9s. per boll,	918 0 0
340 imperial acres of turnips, at 20 tons per acre, if eat off with sheep, value per acre, L.2, 5s.,	765 0 0
550 imperial acres of rye-grass, at 80 stones of 28 lbs. per acre, at 6d. per stone, led from the field,	1100 0 0
150 imperial acres of meadow hay, average 90 stones, of 28 lbs. per acre, at 5d. per stone,	281 5 0
To find the measurement of lands in pasture deduct the foregoing,	
viz. of white crops, - - - - -	1500 acres.
of green crops, - - - - -	510
of artificial hay, - - - - -	550
of meadow hay, - - - - -	150
Together with plantations, - - - - -	250
Waste land in cultivated fields, blank fallow, sites of steadings, &c. - - - - -	284
	3244
From the whole measurement of the parish, - - - - -	12,864
There remains of pasture, - - - - -	9620
Carry over,	L.7283 0 0

	Brought over,	L.7283 0 0
On the estimate that each ox will require 3 acres for summer pasture, and the value of one acre for winter fodder, we have pasture and fodder equal to 2375 cattle, which, estimated as above, at L. 4 each, yields	9700 0 0	
Fishings, say	50 0 0	
Plantations, garden produce, and honey, for which the parish is famous,	100 0 0	
	<hr/>	
Total yearly value of raw produce,	L.17,133 0 0	

*Manufactures.*—Besides the produce of two handloom weavers, there are no manufactures. As there is a sufficiency of water power, it is not improbable that mills may hereafter be erected.

*Navigation.*—The proximity of a safe and commodious harbour, has induced one of our enterprising farmers to build two vessels of considerable size, for the exportation of grain and other produce; and for importing coals, lime, and such other articles as are wanted for home consumption. Our ports are visited also by other coasting vessels, as occasion requires.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Towns.*—Gatehouse and Kirkcudbright are nearly at equal distances from Borgue. The market day of the former is Saturday, of the latter, Friday,—and about an equal number from Borgue attend each. Cattle are bought and sold, either at home or at the Castle Douglas market, held on Monday, to which, though more distant, many of our farmers repair.

*Roads.*—The great turnpike road from London to Portpatrick passes through Borgue at the distance of three miles from the parish church. This, as well as the other roads in the parish, is kept in excellent repair, though unfortunately the funds raised for keeping up the roads have been burdened with a considerable debt, which renders the present assessment somewhat oppressive to the tenantry on whom it has been laid.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church is conveniently situated, as nearly as possible in the centre of the parish. It is seated to accommodate about 500 persons, and is remarkably well attended, whenever the weather permits the more distant part of the population to come out.

The church is a modern Gothic structure, elegant in its design, and conspicuous on all hands, even at a great distance, in consequence of its elevated situation.

The manse, built in 1802, is commodious and in good repair.

As the population has increased above 100 since the church was built in 1814, additional accommodation is now urgently called for. This, indeed, may be furnished without much trouble or ex-

pense, as the aisle admits of a gallery being erected at a convenient distance from the pulpit, and in such a way as to obtain sufficient light and elevation, without incommoding the area beneath.

The three glebes, Kirkandrews, Senwick, and Borgue, which are still disjoined, contain above 20 acres of good arable land, which was greatly improved by the two former incumbents.

The teinds are exhausted, and yield, exclusive of the grant from heritors of L.50 per annum, L.220.

At the last dispensation of the Sacrament (1840) of the Lord's Supper, the number of communicants, including a very few strangers, was 367,—considerably more than a third of the whole population. From this it may be seen that the number of persons belonging to other denominations is inconsiderable. Their relative numbers may be stated as follows: Established Church, 965; Baptists, 8; United Secession, 10; Roman Catholics, 12.

An association for prayer, and for promoting the Schemes of the General Assembly, was formed some time ago. Its meetings are held on the first Monday of every month.

*Education.*—The Borgue Academy, conducted by a rector and assistant, enjoys a deserved celebrity as a classical, but especially as a commercial seminary. In addition to the emoluments derived from Mr Rainy's mortification, which, from circumstances connected with the manner of investment, as well as the present low rate of interest, now fall greatly short of the founder's design and expectation; the head master receives the maximum salary, and is paid, except by 20 free scholars, a rate of wages varying, according to the branches taught, from 1s. 6d. to 5s. Out of these funds, which may amount from L.110 to L.120, the usher's salary is paid. The number of children who attend the academy averages 120,—nearly the whole of these belong to the parish.

A school for sewing and reading is kept in the village by a female teacher on her own adventure. Forty children, for the most part under eight years of age, attend this school, and, besides the branches mentioned, are carefully instructed in spelling, writing, and grammar. The average number of children attending the public schools may therefore be stated at 160 scholars.

For several years, classes for religious instruction, under the direction of the minister and rector of the academy, have been taught according to the methods now commonly pursued, on the afternoon of the Sabbath. From 60 to 70 children attend. There are two other Sabbath schools, conducted by ladies in re-

mote quarters of the parish, at which from 20 to 30 children receive sound instruction in the elements of saving knowledge.

*Library.*—A library has lately been formed in connection with the Sabbath schools. The funds, which have not yet risen to any considerable amount, were derived from private donations,—a few of the heritors having kindly contributed. The volumes are partly religious, partly suited for general instruction and entertainment.

A private subscription library, for religious reading, was also set on foot some years ago. There are sixteen sharers, who subscribe 2s. 6d. per annum, with 2s. 6d. additional at entry. A new volume is purchased monthly, which is put in circulation, and makes its round, remaining for a month in the hands of each subscriber.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The average number of poor on our roll may be stated at 26; the average allowance at L.3 per annum. The entire funds at the disposal of the session amount to above L.70; but these funds are burdened with the salary of the precentor and the beadle, and other contingencies. L.40 or thereby are derived from the ordinary collections, the remainder from the interest of Mr Rainy's, and another small mortification.

Though our poor are by no means discontented, nor disposed to burden the parish with their alimant, so long as they are able by any honest means to earn a meagre subsistence, yet we cannot say, that, from the funds above-mentioned, adequate provision is made for their wants. Cases of much hardship and privation often come under our notice; and though we can always appeal with confidence to many of our kind and charitably disposed parishioners, we could wish at the same time to have an ampler treasury at our disposal.

*Inns.*—There are five licensed inns or ale-houses, three at least of which are uncalled for by the necessities of the place.

*Fuel.*—Peats were formerly abundant. The fuel now universally used is coal, which is imported, of excellent quality, from the coal-pits of Cumberland, at the price varying from L.1 to L.1, 6s. per 24 bushels.

*Drawn up in 1841,  
Revised December 1843.*

# PARISH OF TONGLAND.\*

PRESBYTERY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT, SYNOD OF GALLOWAY.

THE REV. DUGALD STEWART WILLIAMSON, MINISTER.

## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name, Extent, Boundaries, &c.*—The derivation of the name, which is spelt *Tungland*, *Tongueland*, but more commonly *Tong-*

\* The last Statistical Account of Tongland, written in 1793, bears the name of the Rev. William Robb; but it is generally understood to have been supplied by his brother Alexander, at that time his assistant and afterwards his successor, who survived him nine years, and died in the prime of life in 1806, after a short and sudden illness. He enjoyed a considerable local reputation as a man of science, a man of letters, and a man of wit. His wit was principally discharged in satirical effusions, sometimes in prose and sometimes in verse, on incidents and personages of such dignity as the parish or county could afford. Those which I have seen are coarse and vigorous productions, executed in a style of broad humour, and well fitted to excite both the merriment and the fear of the humble class of readers for whom they were intended. I am informed by those who remember him that, in conversation, he was fluent and original, ranging over a variety of subjects, but always willing to escape from the grave and instructive to the grotesque and comical, without much regard either to the disposition of the company or the suitableness of the occasion. His fame for science seems to have arisen chiefly from his knowledge of scientific men, with some of the most eminent of whom, in the last age, he was in habits of intercourse. He had a turn for practical mechanics, and I have heard it stated, but I do not know on what authority, that he was the inventor of some ingenious contrivances about the loom. That he was a man of literary ambition is evident, from his having spent a portion of his best days in composing two works, one entitled "The History of the Reformation in Italy," and the other, "The Philosophy of Religion." These compositions were shown in manuscript to some of the principal literary men of the day, but, whether from their wanting literary merit, or exhibiting too much freedom of opinion, the publication was discouraged, and the author abandoned the idea. If I may judge from such slight specimens as I have seen of his composition, I should pronounce him to have been totally unfit to conduct a grave or elaborate work, having been not only destitute of grace and even coherence in his writing, but, as appears from his frequent blunders in orthography, without the advantages of a finished or regular education. Whatever may have been the execution of these works, however, the selection of topics was felicitous, both having been since handled by twopopular writers, "The Philosophy of Religion," by Mr Dick of Perth, and "The History of the Reformation in Italy," by the well-known Dr M'Crie. But, humble as the rank to which publication would, in all likelihood, have consigned him, he was undoubtedly a man of liberal curiosity and of active intellectual habits. Having gathered, by extreme and protracted frugality, a considerable sum of money, he determined, a few years before his death, to indulge his appetite for information by making a tour upon the continent, and after obtaining leave of absence from his presbytery, for that purpose, he spent nearly two years in travelling through France, and Italy, principally, I believe, on foot. The accounts of his adventures which he gave on his return to his friends were thought highly amusing, but no part of his diaries was ever published, nor am I aware that they have

land, is unknown. The general supposition is, that the name is descriptive of the shape, which is broadest at the northern extremity, but tapers towards the south till it terminates in a point within high water mark, formed by the confluence of the Dee and the Tarff. This derivation is countenanced by Chalmers in his *Caledonia*,—a work of great learning and industry, but, as might have been expected in an undertaking which promises minute local information, very frequently erroneous. The etymology is conjectural, and so are several others which I have heard, connecting the name with adventures of remote antiquity, but, although of some interest, resting on authority too trivial to warrant their insertion here.

The parish is about eight miles in length from north to south, and varies in breadth from three miles to half-a mile. It is separated from the parishes of Kirkcudbright and Kelton on the east, by the Dee; from the parish of Twynholm on the west, for two miles, by the Tarff; and on the upper part by two beautiful mountain lochs called Trostree and Culcagrie. The northern boundary is the parish of Balmaghie, from which it is not distinguished by any natural limit, except for half-a mile by a loch called Bargatton. The Tarff and Dee, at the southern extremity, separate it from the parishes of Twynholm and Kirkcudbright.

*Topography, &c.*—It presents considerable variety of topographical aspect. The southern and central parts consist of a narrow and uneven ridge, which rises gradually from the junction of the two rivers. The northern part expands into broken moorlands, interspersed with wooded valleys and farms partially cultivated, but in general exhibiting a very wild and rugged appearance. The whole parish is arable, except an extensive farm or two at the upper extremity. The slopes to the south-west and east are extremely beautiful, and in a high state of cultivation. The soil is excellent, and, owing to the elevation and aspect of the ground, the harvest is earlier in the lower farms than in those of the surrounding parishes. No wood has been planted for many years,—numerous fine clumps of old trees are scattered up and down, but there

even been preserved. I give this slight sketch of Mr Robb, because, although unknown to the world, he enjoyed some distinction in his neighbourhood, and is the only person recently connected with the parish whose mental powers, had they been sufficiently cultivated or happily directed, might have conducted the possessor to eminence. The only specimen of his authorship that remains, is the *Statistical Account* which bears the name of his brother. The touches of satirical humour mark it as the production of a man who was at least eccentric; and some curious information, which it contains about the habits and character of the people, is worthy of being preserved, and shall be referred to in the course of this article.

are no extensive plantations. In the middle of the parish, as much wood is grown as is necessary either for use or ornament, but in the lower part it is sadly wanting, a want the more to be regretted, as the surface is of that undulating and rocky nature which would admit of its being grown with much advantage both to the emolument of the proprietor, and the appearance of the scenery. Near the summit of Meiklewood hill is a small loch, 15 or 20 feet in depth, which affords a supply of water sufficiently abundant to serve a thrashing-mill in the driest seasons. Being almost at the top of a ridge, with no hills in the vicinity from whence so much water can come, the springs that feed it must be brought by a subterranean passage from a distance of several miles, and unless they come from the north, which is not probable, they must flow beneath the channel either of the Tarff or of the Dee. If one may judge from the general health of the inhabitants, none of whom, however, have ever presented remarkable instances of longevity, the climate is salubrious, although not in the same degree throughout every part of the parish. In the valley of the Tarff, typhus fever occurs more frequently, and to a more fatal extent than in most other districts. This is supposed to be partly caused by the overflowing of the stream, which is there deep and sluggish, and, when swollen by the rains of spring and autumn, inundates the meadows to a considerable extent. Unfortunately too, that part of the parish is the most densely peopled, and principally by the poorer classes. Of the two rivers which form the western and eastern boundary, the Tarff is by much the smaller; it has its rise in Loch Whynton, about fourteen miles from the sea, and after pursuing a very winding course, and presenting a great variety of channel, it joins the Dee at Cumpston Castle. It is a beautiful, limpid stream, abounding with yellow trout, salmon trout, herling, and occasionally with salmon. In the middle of its course there is a waterfall, or rather a succession of waterfalls, called the Linn of Lairdmanoch, between fifty and sixty feet in height, which can be seen from a single point of view, and, when the stream is swollen, forms as picturesque an object as any thing of the kind can be imagined. The lower fall is received by a dark and deep pool, where salmon may be often seen disporting in the latter end of autumn. The Dee is a noble river, having, as well as its tributary, the Ken, a course of forty or fifty miles, and exhibiting in its descent many features both of beauty and grandeur. Perhaps the finest part of its course are the four miles along which it forms the eastern boundary of

KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

F

this parish. Its channel is extremely rugged. Its banks are richly wooded with oak, birch, ash, elm, alder, elder (the bourtree), thorn, and hazel, and the current is, in some places, forced between perpendicular rocks seventy or eighty feet in height. It is boldest and most striking just before it joins the sea, and is seen to most advantage when swollen by the rains of autumn, or by the melted snows in spring. The best view of its impetuosity is commanded from an old two-arched bridge a little above high-water mark. It appears there in a straight line for nearly a quarter of a mile, and, the series of rocky shelves causing it to rise in successive undulations, it resembles the convolutions of an enormous serpent, while the large streaks and patches of foam that diverge from their crests give an animation and a savage beauty to the torrent which it would be hard to match in many Scottish rivers. Its characteristic beauties are celebrated in very sweet verse by Montgomery, in his poem of the "Cherry and the Slae," the principal scene of which is laid on the most picturesque part of its banks, immediately below the old bridge I have already alluded to. As I shall have occasion to refer again to this admirable production, I shall reserve such quotations as I mean to give in illustration of the very accurate and poetical descriptions with which it abounds.

*Geology.*—Porphyry and clay slate are the prevailing rocks in this parish, in common with those of the neighbourhood. There is one remarkable geological appearance. The rocky channel of the Dee is composed entirely of slate, but in one place called the linn pool, the strata are suddenly intercepted by a vein of porphyry mixed with jasper, about a foot and a half in thickness, which, running straight across the stream, appears on both banks, and is gradually lost in the vegetation and mould that cover the rocks. How far it may extend on either side, it is impossible, of course, to say.

*Botany.*—The profusion and variety of plants are greater than their rarity. Of the water plants, the white and yellow water lily, the water plantain, the buckbean, the white ranunculus, the cardinal flower, and the snake-weed, occur in the lochs and in the sluggish parts of the Tarff. Several species of the catch-fly, the spatling-poppy, the cotton-grass, the needle furze (*Genista Anglica*), the moon flower, the butterwort, the milkwort, the *Trollius Europæus*, the twayblade (*Ophrys ovata*), the snapdragon, the viper grass (*Echium vulgare*), Paul's betony, the pimpernel,



or poor man's weather-glass (*Anagallis tenella*), the asphodel, the hawkweed, the anemone, the corncockle, the wood-sorrel, the parnassia, the periwinkle (*Vinca major*), the gentian, the mare's-tail, the cudweed, the cinquefoil, the bitter-sweet (*Solanum dulcamara*), the bilberry, the cranberry, the great valerian, and many species of Orchis, amongst others the white and the sweet smelling, are all to be found in their respective habitats,—such of them as are peculiar to moors and meadows being most abundant. But to a lover of botany the banks of the Dee, where they are most wooded and rocky, that is, for nearly a mile before it joins the sea, present a field both for variety and beauty which many days may be spent in exploring. The unusual number of plants is easily accounted for, by the sharp and rugged nature of the channel, which is well adapted to receive deposits of soil and seed brought down by the river. Great part of it is dry for many months during the year, and thus the new plants have time to take a firm hold, and to propagate either by the seed, the joints, or the root. Being both exposed to the sun, and sheltered from the wind, they have every advantage of locality, and spring up with a rapidity and profusion, of which, within so limited a spot, there are very few examples. Besides most of those which I have already mentioned, I may note the following: *Adoxa moschatellina*, agrimony, ashweed, *Allium oleraceum* (wild garlic), *A. ursinum* (ramsons), *Bunium flexuosum* (the pignut), bird's-foot trefoil, *Campanula patula*\* (the field bell flower), cistus, centaurea, coltsfoot (*Tussilago farfara*), common rue, comfrey (*Symphytum officinale*), convolvulus (*Sepium*), cow-parsnep, pimpernel rose, (*Rosa spinosissima*) dog's rose (white and red), *Epilobium* (two species), eyebright (*Euphrasia*), figwort (*Scrophularia nodosa*), fumitory, geum (two species), geranium (five species, perhaps more), golden rod, ground ivy, great mullein (*Verbascum Thapsus*), Guelder rose, honey-suckle, house-leek (*Sempervivum tectorum*), hyacinth, Iris, Jasion, lady's bedstraw (white and yellow), lady's mantle, lily of the valley (*Convallaria majalis*), *Lysimachia nemorum* (yellow pimpernel of the woods), mare's tail (*Hippuris vulgaris*), marsh mallow (*Malva moschata*), marsh marigold, milfoil yarrow, (the mouse ear), *Myosotis arvensis* and *palustris*, orpine, Potentilla, primrose, purging flax (*Linum catharticum*), purple-spiked willow herb (*Lythrum salicaria*), queen of the meadow, saxifrage, shaking grass (the "silver

\* The *Campanula latifolia* is not found, in so far as I know, within the parish, but it occurs in two neighbouring ones.

shaker"), stone crop (two species), *Sherardia arvensis*, sea gilly-flower (*Statice armeria*), speedwell (three species), strawberry, St John's-wort (six species, *Hypericum hirsutum*, *humifusum*, *perforatum*, *pulchrum*, *quadrangulum* and *dubium*), tansy, Teucrium, Tormentilla, Trollius, violet, winter-green (*Pyrola*), woodruff, woundwort (two species).

Anagallis arvensis	Geranium sylvaticum	Orobus tuberosus
———— cœrulea	———— lucidum	Origanum vulgare
———— tenella	Genista tinctoria	Parnassia palustris
Anthyllis vulneraria	Hippuris vulgaris	Pinguicula lusitanica
Astragalus glycyphyllos	Ilex aquifolium	Polygonum bistorta
Atropa Belladonna	Juniperus communis	Rubus saxatilis
Chelidonium majus	Melampyrum sylvaticum	Sanguisorba officinalis
Circaea lutetiana	Myrica gale	Smyrniolum Olusatrum
Drosera longifolia	Ononis arvensis	Seilla verna.
———— rotundifolia	———— spinosa	Serratula tinctoria
Euonymus Europæus	Orobus sylvestris	

It would be unpardonable to dismiss this very imperfect enumeration, without adverting more particularly to the *Geranium sanguineum*, or bloody cranesbill, which grows along the banks of the Dee in such profusion and beauty, during the months of June and July, as to excite the admiration of every one who sees it. Many of the rocks are covered with this lovely flower. Scarcely inferior to it in beauty, and, in the opinion of some, even surpassing it, is the *Geranium pratense*, which is likewise uncommonly abundant; but, being a taller and more straggling plant than the other, the blossoms, from the want of compactness, do not produce the same gorgeous effect. The quantity of wild honeysuckle, too, is immense, especially of late years; and to one who has a taste for such pleasures, I can imagine nothing more enchanting than a solitary walk by the side of this river on a serene summer evening, when the wild flowers are in full blossom, to gaze on the deep crimson of the cranesbill, or the graceful festoons and exquisite tint of the convolvulus, to inhale the fragrance of the honeysuckle and the sweetbriar, and to hear the notes of innumerable birds mixing with the murmur of the stream.

In the above slight account of the botany of this parish, I have not noticed either the grasses or the cryptogamic plants. To attempt a complete enumeration of them would far exceed the limits proper to a work of this nature; and it is the less necessary, as I rather think that there is nothing in them peculiar either to the parish or to the neighbourhood. However, as I have not had the opportunity of comparing them with those in other parts of the country, I may very possibly be mistaken. Many of the *Agarics* are extremely beautiful, and some of them are very large. The same

is true of the *Boleti* and the *Lichens*. In some seasons, the common mushroom (*Agaricus campestris*), grows abundantly on the southern slopes; but the crop is exceedingly precarious, there being many years in which not one is to be seen. Notwithstanding its delicious flavour and wholesome qualities, it is neglected by the common people, who entertain an ungovernable prejudice against eating it or any of the *Agaric* family, for all of which they mark their detestation, by stigmatizing them as "paddock-stools." The *Agaricus Xerampelinus*, held in such high esteem by the ancient Romans, and celebrated in history as having been employed by Agrippina to convey poison to her husband, the Emperor Claudius, is not uncommon in our plantations. It grows to a magnificent size, (I have found it sometimes with the *pileus* as broad as the crown of a common hat,) and although not of a particularly agreeable taste, may be eaten with perfect safety. Its indifferent quality as food has led some to wonder at the coarse taste of the Roman epicures, and others to doubt the accuracy of their historians, imagining that they have confounded this fungus with the *Agaricus deliciosus*, which is still held in high repute by the modern Italians. The latter idea may possibly be correct; but taste of every kind is capable of incredible modifications. I am assured by a gentleman, a native of Russia, that, at particular seasons, the *Agaricus Xerampelinus* and many other kinds, which our peasants and our paupers would sooner starve than taste, continue to form, as they have done for ages, the principal food of his healthy, long-lived, and athletic countrymen. It has been supposed, too, that certain sorts which are deleterious with us, the *Ag. piperatus* for example, are eaten without inconvenience or danger by natives of the continent; but that is a total mistake. What kills a Scotchman would prove equally fatal to a Russian or a Frenchman;—the shades of discrimination, however, between the poisonous and the wholesome, are so nice that, although detected at once by the disciplined mushroom-hunter, an unpractised or a careless eye is unable to discern them. Accustomed from infancy to follow their parents through the fields and forests, children soon learn to distinguish the different kinds. Hence the astonishment often felt by strangers on seeing exposed for sale in many of the continental markets, *Fungi*, which in their own country, they had been taught to regard as loathsome, injurious, and even fatal. *Fairy rings* are found in some places. That this singular and often beautiful appearance is caused neither by lightning nor by insects, nor still less by fairies,

(although one regrets to consider these "delicate creations," as a mere coinage of the brain,) but simply by the manner in which certain species of agarics cast their seed, is now, I believe, universally agreed on by naturalists; but I am not aware of a satisfactory reason having been assigned for the circular figure which the clusters uniformly assume. To what species or variety the agarics composing the rings are to be referred, is also a matter of dispute. Lightfoot, without hesitation, pronounces it to be the *Ag. coriaceus*, or fairy agaric, called by the French *Mousseron*, and describes the *pileus* as being of the size of a half-crown, a little convex or elevated in the centre; while Withering, after quoting a number of authors, and giving his reasons for differing from Lightfoot, decides that it is the *Ag. praealtus*, which is a large species, and strengthens his conclusion by the respectable authority of Ray, who subjoins to an imperfect character of the plant the English name of *Scotch bonnets*. This confusion and contrariety of opinion has arisen, as it appears to me, from its being supposed that the phenomenon of the fairy ring is exhibited by one species of agaric only. The season in which I write prevents me from verifying my observation by a reference to specimens, or distinctly stating what the different kinds are; but I can confidently affirm that two kinds, at least, propagate in a ring—the one corresponding exactly with Lightfoot's description of the *Ag. coriaceus*, the other, so far as I remember, with Ray's account, as quoted by Withering, of the *Ag. praealtus*. Great variation exists in the diameters of these rings, some of them being only a few inches, while others extend to nearly twenty feet. The circles, especially the smaller ones, are often completely formed.

*Woods and Plantations.*—The following trees, indigenous and cultivated, occur within the bounds of the parish: alder, ash, birch, bird's cherry, beech, crab tree, elder, elm, hawthorn, hazel, horse chestnut, laburnum, larch, lime, mountain-ash, oak, plane, poplar, Scotch fir, silver fir, service tree, spruce, wild cherry, and willow. The plantations consist principally of ash, larch, lime, and oak. The oldest and finest trees are those which surround the church and manse. They are planes and beeches, the former upwards of one hundred years old, the latter about eighty-five, as nearly as I could ascertain from the testimony of some aged people, now dead, who recollected them when newly planted.

*Zoology—Wild Animals.*—The fox is very common. The bad-

ger is occasionally met with. Otters sometimes appear in the Tarff, and are numerous in the Dee. They are very destructive to salmon; but, as they hunt in the night, they are seldom visible by day, and, being extremely wary, they are enabled, by their exquisite sense of smell, to avoid the traps set for them, and are therefore not easily destroyed. Young otters are taken now and then; but I believe there is no instances of a full-grown one ever having been secured. They are so fierce, that, rather than be taken, they will bite off a foot and leave it in the trap,—an incident which has happened more than once in the experience of some of our fishermen.\* A very slight blow on the head kills them. They generally burrow at a distance from the scene of their depredations. A dark, lonely loch, with deep, abrupt, hollow, and overhanging edges, is a favourite haunt, especially if it communicates with a salmon river by a direct and unobstructed streamlet. To this retreat they ascend towards morning, and, entering their warm and commodious den by a passage, the mouth of which is beneath the surface of the water, they doze during the day, and do not come abroad again till the evening is far advanced. When in pursuit of their prey, they have a sharp shrill whistle, which can easily be distinguished above the roar of the Dee, even where its waters are at the largest. I have often found salmon of ten or twelve lbs. lying upon the rocks half-devoured by them. It is said that they always select the finest fish. The head and shoulders are invariably the parts eaten, and near the tail on both sides of the under part of the body the marks of teeth are generally visible. This shows that the otter runs his prey down, and does not, as some have supposed, seize it by surprise. Some idea may hence be formed of the great agility and muscular power of this animal. A few years ago, a neighbour of mine caught a pup, which, in a very short while, became quite domesticated. His familiarity and gambols were highly entertaining; but, from the time that he was taken to his favourite element, after being full grown, he became so fierce and ungovernable as to be a dangerous inmate, and had to be sent off, much against his master's inclination, to the Zoological Gardens of Liverpool, where, I understand, he still remains,

\* I have heard lately that a "cunning man" in this neighbourhood, has fallen on a plan to take old otters, which has proved successful. Observing by the tracks of the animal in the snow, the precise spots at which it enters and leaves the water, he places a trap *below the surface*, so as to destroy the human effluvium, which is supposed to be the main circumstance that hinders the otter from seizing the bait when placed on the dry land.

—an object of considerable curiosity to the visitors. The polecat is sometimes seen, but very rarely. I have seen only one in eight years. The weasel is common. The stoat, a beautiful little creature, with dark prominent eyes, a white body, and a black tail, is met with occasionally. I have observed three, one in winter, and two in summer. I mention this for two reasons, *first*, because it is a common idea, that the stoat is the weasel grown white from the effects of winter; and, *secondly*, because it has been affirmed by some naturalists, that the stoat changes its colour from white to brown, according to the seasons. I can vouch, from personal observation, that both these opinions are erroneous. Hares and rabbits are plentiful, although not to the same extent as some years ago. Montgomery, whose descriptions, to their other merits, add that of correctness, mentions, among his enumeration of the different animals, the “cou” or squirrel as common in this district. But whatever may have been the case in his day, it has long since disappeared not only from this neighbourhood, but from the southern part of Scotland. This change is remarkable, and cannot be the effect of climate, as the squirrel is abundant in the northern counties of England, and not uncommon in the Lothians.

*Birds.*—Several years ago a bittern was shot by a sportsman, who had it stuffed in commemoration of his adventure. So far as I am aware no other specimen of that bird has ever been observed. In the course of the last two years, king-fishers have been repeatedly seen along the Dee. The missel-thrush, the largest and one of the most beautiful of our singing birds, was quite unknown to us about twenty years ago. They long continued to be rare; but now, although not numerous, they are not uncommon. Except when breeding, they are the shyest of birds; but then they become very bold, building their nest in the cleft of a tree, close to a house, and attacking, with loud and angry screams, such animals as threaten to approach them. For several years, a pair have built on some old trees that surround the manse. At first they selected the more distant trees and the highest branches, but, from not being disturbed, they acquired additional confidence each successive season. At length they ventured within a few yards of one of the doors, and, while I now write, the female is hatching in my orchard on a branch not six feet from the ground, and almost within arm's length of a walk, along which people are perpetually passing. The yellow wagtail is a pretty little bird, resembling, in elegance of shape and beauty of plumage, some spe-

ries of canaries. They do not increase in numbers, one reason for which may be, that, building when the streams and rivers are low, they select crevices of rocks, which the first flood covers, sweeping away their eggs or their tiny offspring. I saw this happen two successive seasons to the nest of a yellow wagtail, which, undeterred by the catastrophe of the preceding year, the poor bird had built in the following one in the same cleft. In winter and spring, we are sometimes visited by swans and wild-geese, but they never continue long, and merely make resting-places of our rivers and lochs as they pass from one haunt to another. The shieldrake, which is the most beautiful of the duck tribe, frequently builds in the higher grounds, near the centre of the parish. Although the principal element of these birds is the sea, to which they immediately conduct their young, they often hatch at a great distance from it. They commonly descend by a tributary rivulet to the main stream, and soon reach the tide; but, if interrupted, or accidentally prevented from taking that course, they will boldly go by the shortest and smoothest path they can find. Last year, a flock of no fewer than twenty-two came down from the moors to the sea by the high road. They had to pass some houses, and were met by several individuals in rapid march, the parent birds fluttering in front, close above the young ones, directing them in their course, and animating them by their cries. They are delicious food, but although easily tamed, they are stupified by domestication, having so little idea of self-preservation, as not to fly even when attacked, so that, being common objects of assault to the domestic fowls, they are soon exterminated. Several attempts have been made in this parish to rear them with poultry, but, owing to this circumstance, these attempts have uniformly failed. The cuckoo is very common among the hills. I have seen eight in a flock. On arriving, it is almost always solitary, but before its departure, is frequently attended or followed by a little bird. Hence the phrase of the "gowk" and the "titling." Many to whom the fact and the phrase are familiar know nothing of their origin, which it may be worth while therefore to explain. The cuckoo, building no nest, deposits a single egg in that of some little bird, generally the bessy black-cap, or the moss-cheeper, by whom it is hatched along with her own. After arriving at a certain age, the young cuckoo, a giant compared with his foster-brothers, takes them on his back, flings them out of the nest, and thus gets the whole attention of the old bird devoted to

himself. She continues to feed him, and to treat him as her bantling after he is ten times her own size, and, although so much his inferior in strength and speed, does what she can to keep up with him in his rapid and extensive flights, nor quits him till he is just about to set off on his foreign travels. The "gowk," therefore, is the young cuckoo, and the "titling" is the bird that hatched him. Many people imagine they have never seen the cuckoo, from their confounding it with a species of hawk which it much resembles,—an imagination countenanced by the celebrated line of the poet,

" O cuckoo, shall I call thee bird, or but a wandering voice ;"

and by the note appended to it, in which he affirms that, although " the cuckoo is almost perpetually heard throughout the season of spring, it seldom becomes an object of sight."\* The raven, the hooded-crow, the carrion crow, and the rook, are all found in the parish.

To such gentlemen as wish to form rookeries around their mansion-houses, I may suggest a plan which I have recently tried myself, and found to be attended with complete success. A rookery having been long established in the neighbourhood, I had expected, as there are some fine tall old trees about the manse, that the rooks would extend their settlement to my premises; but year after year passed, and still they declined doing so. I therefore caused two nests, having each four strong young crows, to be brought from the rookery and fixed on one of the highest of my own trees. The old birds immediately found them out, and continued to feed them till they were full-fledged. I observed the rooks return to the transported nests at certain periods during the winter, and linger about them for a few days, to ascertain, apparently, whether they continued fit for future use, and to repair the injuries done by the weather. In March, I had the satisfaction to see eighteen nests clustered round the tree on which the decoys had been fastened. A rookery may be formed at any distance in this way, provided the nests are not too far removed at a time. They should be shifted by successive stages, and permitted to remain a day or two at each place. The old ones will feed the young, even although the nest be put upon the ground; but by fixing it at each resting-place upon a tree, the success of the experiment will be more certain. In the first stanza of "The Cherry and the Slae," the nightingale is mentioned, along with the "goldspink" (goldfinch,) as saluting May from the "balmy

\* Wordsworth's Works, Vol. i. p. 26, pref.



boughs," on the banks of the river which the poet describes ; but Goldsmith says the nightingale is only found in some of the southern counties of England, and is totally unknown in Scotland, Ireland and Wales ; while Burns, in some strictures addressed to Mr Thomson on old Scottish songs, censures the writer of " Jamie the flower of the Dee," as guilty both of false description and of a blunder in natural history in the line " sweetly the nightingale sang frae the tree,"—alleging, first, that the nightingale is never heard so far north ; and, secondly, that he sings, not from a tree but from a bush. In both particulars, the popular opinion coincides with that of those distinguished authors. The authority of such a writer as Montgomery, however, whose works, independently of the great poetical powers which they display, are remarkable for a close observation of nature, are enriched with numerous classical allusions, and indicate a mind informed with general knowledge, stands high upon the other side. The manliness of his understanding places him beyond the affectation of introducing the name of a celebrated bird, without any attention to the local propriety of the allusion, and merely for the sake of tickling the ear of the ignorant or indolent reader by a sound which calls up so many associations of romance and melody. It is nearly certain, either that he must have heard the bird sing where he has placed it, or that he believed it to be a periodical, although, perhaps, a rare visitant. I am assured, too, by my friend, Mr M'Culloch of Ardwall, that, in the year 1826, he is convinced he heard the song of the nightingale, with which he had been familiar in other countries, at his beautiful residence near Gatehouse of Fleet, about ten miles to the westward of the Dee. The inference, therefore, is, either that the melodious stranger has ceased to visit this country, or that his visits are extremely rare. Of birds either frequently or occasionally seen, we may note the heron, the cormorant, the curlew, the lapwing, the dorhawk, the corncrake, the tern, the white owl, the golden plover, the water hen, the stock dove, the fieldfare, the starling, the golden-crested wren, the corn-bunting, the snow-bunting, the speckled diver, the long-tailed titmouse,\* the little grebe, and the bullfinch. We have all the varieties of game birds except the ptarmigan,—red and black grouse, pheasant, snipe, partridge, and woodcock.

\* Now called the " rose-muffin" by naturalists, who have discovered that its habits are totally different from those of the titmouse. It is an exquisitely beautiful little creature, so quick and restless, that it is very difficult to get a sight of it, and, next to the gold-crested wren, the smallest of our native birds, I have generally seen it among birches, by the sides of streams.

*Fish and Fisheries.*—Perch, pike, trout, and eels are found in the lochs. In one loch it is said there are char, but that is uncertain. Smelts or sparlings are taken sometimes in the Dee, but very seldom. The pearl mussel is so frequent as to be used for ornamental purposes. The salmon of the Dee are highly esteemed for their richness and flavour, being considered superior in these respects to those of the neighbouring rivers. Of late they have increased prodigiously in numbers, for which various reasons may be assigned,—the removal of stake-nets, which intercepted multitudes in the estuary of the Dee, and, in certain states of the weather, prevented a single fish from passing upwards, and the much greater attention now paid in winter to the protection of the breeders, of which great numbers used to be destroyed with spears by torch-light when in the act of depositing their spawn in the shallow fords.\* Although in a state at that time totally unfit to be eaten, the disgusting practice of destroying them for food prevailed to an incredible extent. In the remoter tributaries of the Dee, it prevails still; and the instincts of the fish leading it to the highest and the shallowest streamlets it can reach, render the detection and punishment of the poachers a work of much trouble and expense. The protection of the salmon fry, too, in the spring, deserves to be mentioned as another probable cause of the increase. Every school boy knows they are the boldest of fish in seizing the fly; and it is generally by the capture of a few dozens of them that he is initiated into the mysteries of angling, and fired with the passion for it. The effect of taking fry with the rod, however, has been much exaggerated. No doubt for every fry that is killed, a salmon is lost; but the influence on the annual produce of a river from the loss of all the fry which it is possible to take in a season, is too insignificant to be reckoned, compared with the loss occasioned by the destruction of a single breeding salmon. The discovery lately made by Mr Shaw of the identity between the salmon fry and the par, and the curious investigations respecting the habits of the salmon in which the prosecution of his experiments engaged him, are the most interesting and remarkable circumstances that ever have occurred in connection with the natural history of this valuable fish. I have termed it a discovery, having not the slightest doubt, from what has fallen under my personal observation, that although the identity had been long suspected, Mr Shaw

\* The increase, however, is not steadily progressive,—an abundant season being sometimes succeeded by one of comparative scarcity, and *vice versa*. The causes of variation admit being explained; but the explanation would involve a number of details, too great for the space allotted to this article. See, however, page 79, note.

is entitled to claim the merit of having established it. On hearing of his investigations, the present tacksman of the Tongland fishery, Mr Gillone, a person of some intelligence and much curiosity, commenced a series of experiments with salmon roe upon the same principles. These experiments are not yet completed, but I witnessed them from the time that the embryo was taken from the salmon bed, fourteen months ago, up to the present moment, and, so far as they have gone, they exactly coincide with the process detailed by Mr Shaw. Another year is required to finish the experiment, but the result seems certain. What Mr Shaw has succeeded so well in showing is, that the par remains for upwards of two years in the fresh water before seeking the sea or acquiring the scaly appearance of the fry, and that, in the course of the second year, it makes very little additional growth. A clear explanation is thus supplied of a circumstance which naturally caused a good deal of scepticism about the new theory—par and fry, which differ very little in size but much in appearance, being found together in rivers at the same time. The effect which this discovery, if turned to practical purposes, is likely to have on the multiplication of salmon, is too obvious to be pointed out. In confirmation of its soundness, I may mention a remark often made by old fishermen, that the effects of an unfavourable breeding time, either from severity of frost or a scanty supply of rain, appeared in diminishing the number of salmon, not in the two seasons immediately following, but in the third. On the supposition that Mr Shaw's experiments are conclusive, that is exactly what was to be expected; and the unintentional correspondence between his theory and the opinion of men who had no guide but long experience, may be regarded as a somewhat interesting evidence of its truth. Immediately on entering the river, the salmon begin to lose their beautiful and clear appearance, becoming gradually darker till they deposit their spawn, when they are often quite black; but after that event, the bright colour reappears, and on finally quitting the fresh water, they differ little in outward aspect from those ascending from the sea, except in the lankness of their shape and the discoloration of their gills. After getting to the sea, the salmon increases very rapidly. The fry which descends in May a few ounces in weight returns in July or August a grilse of six or eight pounds, a rapid growth certainly, but not much more so than that of some land animals.

The right of fishing belongs exclusively to Mr Murray of Broughton, and must have been acquired by prescription, as a very

small portion of his estate touches that portion of the river, along which the fishery extends. The Earl of Selkirk's land is on the one bank, and the glebe of Tongland on the most valuable part of the other. Formerly, it was let by public roup in short leases of two, three, and four years, and rose in value at each successive auction. When last let in this manner, the lease was for four years at a rental of L.705 per annum,—a large sum, considering that the fishery is not more than half a mile in extent. At present it is let for fifteen years by private bargain; but at what rent, I cannot pretend to state accurately.

The salmon are taken in seven different modes,—by doachs or cruives, by hang-nets, by draught-nets, by shoulder-nets, by drag-nets, by gaffs, and by the rod.

Two doachs have been erected, one on each side of the Dee, with a stone battery or gangway communicating between them, which stretches completely across the channel. The consequence is, that, except when the river is much swollen, not a single salmon can pass. These erections, especially the stone battery, are believed to be quite illegal,—a judgment having been pronounced by the present Lord Chancellor Cottenham, a few years ago, in the case of the Earl of Airly against the proprietors on the Spey, from which it appears that *every obstruction in the bed of a river, to prevent the ascent of salmon, is contrary to law*. By way of permitting some fish to get up, there is what is called a Saturday's slap, that is, a part of the doachs is removed once a week for thirty-six hours, reckoning from six o'clock on Saturday evening; but, except in particular states of the river, this slap is of little avail towards its ostensible purpose. When it is low, the salmon do not run, but remain inactive for weeks, (I have observed them, for many days, lying in the same identical spot, apparently without having stirred from it,) and, when high, the pressure of the current against the doachs is so great, that even should the fishermen attempt to remove them, which they cannot always venture to do, the effort would be beyond their strength. The proportion of salmon, therefore, that falls to the upland proprietors, compared with the numbers taken below the doachs, is a mere trifle, and it is astonishing, that, in a matter which so nearly affects them, they do not act with vigour in vindication of their rights.

By the removal of these obstructions, the value of the fisheries near the mouth of the Dee, far from being diminished, would probably be very much increased, and that in the course of a few years. The proprietors along the whole course of the river and

its tributaries would have a direct and obvious interest in the protection of the fry and preservation of the breeding fish; and being constantly on the spot, could effect these most desirable objects with much more certainty than can ever be done either by proprietors or by tacksmen under the existing monopoly. One or two more hands would be required to work the nets in the lower part of the river; but the expense thus incurred would be greatly overbalanced by the profits arising from the increase in the numbers of the fish which would almost certainly ensue. At present the higher proprietors have no interest whatever in the multiplication of salmon; they, therefore, see the fry and the breeders destroyed with indifference, and many of them connive at their destruction.\*

\* The following observations on this subject lately appeared in a Worcester newspaper. They deserve to be quoted, both for the confirmation they afford of the foregoing statements, and the suggestion respecting the best mode of stopping the illegal practice which they so justly reprobate: "A Gloucester correspondent again calls our attention to the subject of the preservation of this delicious fish (the salmon.) We cannot withhold the expression of our regret, after the many reasonable appeals which have been made by the press respecting this question, that contrabandists and purchasers of unseasonable fish are yet to be found, in open violation of the Act of 58th Geo. III. Our regret is further increased by the fact, with which our correspondent has furnished us, that a *gentleman*, who is a *magistrate* (!) of this county and of Gloucestershire, and whose duty in that capacity should have been to enforce the law, rather than to encourage its violation, openly purchased an unseasonable fish, at about 10d. per lb., in order to effect a paltry saving of some 2d. per lb.; this bargain was made on the 18th of October last. We are asked, 'who is to be the prosecutor in such instances?' Our answer, is, the conservator, who is, or should be, the recognized informer, to be authorized and supported by the county at large; and where such public officer is not appointed, *no time should be lost in selecting one.*' In Scotland, no such functionary as the one mentioned by this writer is known; and I am doubtful whether, in the case of a large river like the Dee, having many tributaries, and taking a winding course through a rugged mountainous country, the appointment of one such functionary, or even of many, would produce a sensible effect in preventing the destruction of unseasonable salmon. How little the independent exertions of detached counties avail, is obvious from the result of the attempts lately made in this district to put down vagrants. Considerable success attended them at first; but of late the nuisance has become as rank as ever. And if a number of constables, with broad day-light and public roads to guide them, are unable to exterminate a crew of miserable beggars, we may judge what a "conservator" would effect against gangs of nimble and powerful young poachers, conducting their operations under the cloud of night, amidst remote and unfrequented glens, on streams often flowing underneath high rocks and through extensive copsewood. The practice must be stopped, if it is to be stopt at all, not by the exertions of local bodies, but by the interposition of the Government; and I would suggest, though with much diffidence, the following plan for the purpose:

1. The first thing to be done is to have a minute and accurate survey taken of the salmon rivers, in which survey the following points are to be attended to: *first*, the various properties through which the river and its tributaries flow are to be noted, and the length of their courses through each of them; *second*, the principal haunts of the salmon, during the period, when they ascend the river; and *third* and principally, the places where they deposit their spawn. To ascertain these points, but especially the last, let individuals be selected, having not only practical experience and local knowledge, but a general acquaintance with the natural history of the salmon, and considerable powers of reflection on the facts that may fall under their observation. In the reports accompanying the charts constructed from these surveys, the writers should not be limited to mere statistical details, but should be invited to state their

The hang or bag-net consists of two nets, of which one has meshes of the common size; the other, meshes five or six times larger. This being drawn across the lower end of a pool, and a stop-net across the top, several men beat the surface of the water with long poles, and pounce the rocks and stones so as to scare the salmon from their haunts. Thus attacked, many of them make a desperate effort to escape down the stream, and, striking with violence against the small-meshed net, carry it through a large mesh of the other, and thus get so completely entangled by their fins and gills, that their farther attempts to escape are fruitless. It might be supposed, indeed, that very few fish could get away; but this is by no means the case, for it is a singular circumstance, that, after a good many have been entangled, multitudes continue in the pool, that no exertions of the fisherman's can drive into the net. They will come close up to it, and may be seen swimming within the bag made by the current; but, on being approached, instead of dashing downwards, they move to the centre of the pool

opinions unreservedly, and to suggest such plans as may have occurred to them in furtherance of the general object for which they have been appointed.

2. The next thing to be done is to cause every obstruction in the channel of the river to be swept away, and no mode of taking salmon allowed, except what requires the application of the hand.

3. The third thing to be done is, to require from every individual having property on the river, a return of the number of salmon taken by him or by his leave in the course of the season.

4. And the fourth thing to be done is, to provide for the protection of the breeding fish. This can only be effected by a numerous, active, faithful, and well paid police. This police should be brought from a distance, and periodically shifted from one station to another, like excise officers. Nor should any person in the district have a word to say, either in their nomination or removal. Reckoning the average weight of each salmon at 6 lbs. (which is under the fact,) I should say that a tax of one half-penny per lb. would be quite enough to defray the expense of this establishment. Unless these or similar measures of practical energy be adopted to put an end to river poaching, we shall never have a permanently abundant supply of salmon; and still less a progressive increase. It is grievous to see, as I have done often, large and beautiful fish offered for sale, in a state totally unfit for use, and if habitually used, certain to produce bad effects on the health. Unlimited reliance must not be placed on the fecundity of the salmon, which is far from being so great as many people think. Looking at the quantity of roe in a single fish, it would no doubt be incalculable, did each roe produce a salmon; but not to speak of the casualties it is exposed to, both while being deposited, and even after being covered up, a very large proportion of it is barren, having either accidentally lost, or been incapable of receiving, impregnation. I cannot pretend to state the proportion, (although, I think, it might be ascertained, and it is worth ascertaining,) between the number of roe in any one salmon, and the number of fish produced by that salmon, which arrive at maturity; but I have heard it roughly guessed at one in one hundred! The cause of the continued decrease in the numbers of these valuable fish are to be found at our doors; and we need seek for no other, such as the multiplication of steam-boats, saw-mills, &c.

Their disappearance from some rivers in Norway may be accounted for by the quantity of saw-dust thrown into them from the mills; and from the Mersey, by the number of the ships, or still more, by the evacuation through the Irwell of the puddle of Manchester; but causes similar to these will not apply here, nor are they required,—those which I have specified, being quite sufficient to account for the past, and to insure a future diminution.

or the upper part of the stream. It is said the number that thus escape is, in general, equal to those which are captured. This also is an illegal mode of fishing; but, until last year, it was practised in the Dee with great success,—three hundred salmon having been often taken from a single pool in a few hours.

The shoulder-net and the manner of using it cannot be described more correctly than in the words of Mr Robb: “A net is fixed to a semicircular bow of wood, and this is attached to a pole twenty feet in length. The fisherman ties a piece of bended wood with a groove in it on his right shoulder, for the pole of the net to slide in. Taking his station, in the night, upon a rock by the side of a pool frequented by the salmon, he throws his net before him into the water, and draws it towards him along the bottom, the pole sliding in the wooden groove. When near him, he gives the net a sudden turn, and brings out the salmon. Another man is by to kill the fish, and bring them to a place of safety.” By far the greatest number of salmon are taken by this method. It requires a man of great bodily strength, and of long experience as to the haunts of the fish. Two years ago, 35 salmon were brought out at a single throw. Several people were fortunately present to assist the fisherman, otherwise he could not have secured his prey. In July 1836, the same man took 315 grilises with the shoulder-net in the course of an afternoon.

The drag-net is constructed in the same manner as the preceding, but upon a much larger scale, and is worked at night by two men in a boat. It is used only in the Linn-pool,—the largest and deepest in the Dee. The greatest weight of fish I have known taken in this manner, in one night, was 800 lbs.

The draught-net is too well known to need description. The only pool in which it admits of being used is happily situated and formed for that purpose,—being the highest into which the tide flows, and the only one, as its name, the sand bed, imports, which has a sandy bottom. It can always be drawn four times a day,—twice at flood and twice at ebb-tide, and seldom fails to yield a return of fish, which, although less abundant perhaps, is much more regular than that arising from some of the other modes.

The gaff is seldom employed, except in spring, and even then only when the river is low and salmon are scarce. A large hook is fastened to a slender piece of wood or wire, four or five feet in length, which is attached to a salmon line. One man takes a fishing-rod, and another approaching cautiously the place where a salmon has been observed, slips the gaff slowly underneath, and, by

a sudden jerk, strikes the hook into him. He immediately flies off, and, after being played awhile, is brought gradually ashore.

A method, somewhat similar to this, called *grappling*, is often successfully practised by poachers. Three or four large hooks are fastened together, pointing in different directions. The line to which they are attached being loaded with lead, they are dropt into the narrowest part of a pool where salmon are supposed to be most abundant, and, after being allowed to sink nearly to the bottom, are moved up and down in a see-saw manner. Although this appears to be random work, I am assured that poachers who know the river, will take salmon by it in considerable numbers.

In spring a good many fish are captured with the rod, to which all the men employed in the fishery devote most of their spare time. No river can possibly afford better amusement to the angler, and great liberality has always been shown in giving permission to fish, both by the proprietor and by the different tacksmen.

Of the artificial flies used there is considerable variety in point of size and colour, both being determined by the state of the river. When it is swollen, the fly most commonly adopted is a large one, with red or speckled wings, taken from the feathers either of the common turkey, or of the fish-tailed or Huntington kite. The latter bird is not a native of Scotland. It is found in the central and southern counties of England, and used to be so highly esteemed by our anglers, that I have known half-a-crown given for a single feather. Of late it has fallen rather out of repute, and given place to the more flexible but less brilliant feathers of the red turkey. When the river is low, small trout flies are used with the finest tackle. To my taste this is by far the best amusement. Large yellow trout rise freely, and the sportsman is certain of an occasional struggle with a salmon. As an illustration of the excellent diversion sometimes had on the Dee, I may mention, that, some years ago, I took, with a small trout fly, a finely-grown newly-run salmon, which weighed  $14\frac{3}{4}$  pounds. My line consisted of three horse hairs, and a single gut. The fly was composed of the red part of the partridge-tail feather, a red hackle, and a black worsted body, *without tinsel* of any kind. On the same day, the same fly was taken by another salmon, which escaped. This, I am inclined to think, is the greatest piscatory exploit ever performed on the Dee. The enthusiastic angler will applaud the feat, and the good-natured reader will excuse my vanity.

On first appearing on the river, salmon are invariably more or less infested—sometimes their backs are nearly covered—with in-



sects, to which fishermen give the name of *sea-lice*. They occasion the fish a great deal of uneasiness, and perhaps pain, being sometimes so firmly attached, as on removal to bring away the scales. Fresh water is fatal to them; but how long they survive in it, is uncertain,—some say only for a few days: but this is a mistake, as I have observed new fish among a number of old ones, for upwards of a week, in the same pool, where they were easily distinguishable, both by the superior vivacity of their motions, and by the long tails of the insects attached to them, and appearing like fragments of numerous white threads between the tail and the dorsal fin. In descending the river after spawning, the gills of the salmon are filled with small maggots, called *fresh-water lice*, which disappear after the fish reach the sea, and, except in one case, to be noticed immediately, are never found on the same animal at the same time as the *sea-lice*. The existence of these insects, under the particular circumstances, will not account for the migratory instincts of the salmon; but supposing them to annoy or irritate the fish, it affords a curious illustration of the physical means employed by nature to quicken the operation of instincts which she has implanted. The salmon seeks the river to deposit its spawn, and the sea to recover its strength and bulk;—its migrations in either direction being hastened by the presence of insects, fostered by the element which it leaves, and destroyed by the one into which it passes. If this fact be admitted as one of the inciting causes of the migration of salmon, it may be considered as somewhat analogous to one in the history of migratory birds, with respect to which, John Hunter suggested, and Dr Jenner has established, that the inciting causes of their migrations are certain periodical changes in the testes of the male, and the ovaria of the female. It also affords an interesting, though partial confirmation of a conjecture thrown out by Mr Stewart, who, in treating of the distinction between Reason and Instinct, in the third volume of the *Philosophy of the Human Mind*, observes, that, “of the attempts to account for the instincts of migratory birds and fishes, I have met with none which seem to me at all satisfactory; at the same time, I have no doubt that it is by *some physical means* that the effect is accomplished, and I think it highly probable, that new lights will be thrown on the subject by the researches of future naturalists.”—P. 351.

In consequence of the facility of communication opened with Liverpool, Manchester, London, and other large towns by steamboats and railways, the price of salmon, like that of almost every

other article of food, has risen of late years. In the earlier part of the season, that is, from February till June, the prices are 2s. 6d., 2s., and 1s. 10d. per lb. In June, July, and August, the prices generally are, for salmon, 6d.; grilse, 4d.; trout and herling, 3d. per lb. In September, there is a slight advance on each. Fifty years ago, salmon was so abundant and so cheap, that servants in this neighbourhood, on being hired, made it a part of their bargain, that they were not to be fed upon it more than twice a-week. Although salmon have lately so much increased in numbers, large ones are not so common as formerly. Within the last eight years, one only has weighed thirty pounds, and no other has come near it. Fish of that weight used not to be scarce, and sometimes they far exceeded it. The fishing season commences upon the 1st of February, and closes on the 25th of September.\* The bull-trout is often caught. He varies from five to twenty lbs. An unskillful person is very apt to select him, as I have often witnessed, from a group of salmon, as the finest and richest of the lot; but, although a handsome fish, his quality as food is utterly detestable. On being cut up, he appears white instead of red, and has nothing of the flavour, firmness, or delicacy of the salmon. He is distinguished by greater roundness of body and bluntness of nose, and also by two or three large spots upon his cheeks, which are wanting in the other; but the surest external mark is the state of the gills, which in the salmon are clear, and of a beautiful deep red, while those of the bull-trout are of a pale dirty colour, and foul with fresh water maggots of the bigness of a small pea. At the same time that these maggots are found on the gills of the bull-trout, sea lice appear on its body,—a fact which might, at first sight, seem to be fatal to the theory I have ventured to hint at, respecting one of the inciting causes of the periodical migrations of salmon. But there are two circumstances which may perhaps account for the singularity in this case. One is the softness and the white colour of the fish, as compared with the rest of the salmon tribe, all of which are firm and red when in season. By long continuance in the fresh water, migratory fish become pale and flaccid. The probability, therefore, is, that the periodical migrations of the bull-trout are short and frequent, or, in other words, that it is the habit of this fish to hover betwixt the salt and

\* A greater number of salmon are taken in July than in any one month of the eight during which the river is open. The greatest number I ever knew taken in that month was in the year 1840, namely, 1426.

the fresh water, and thus to acquire certain properties, and to present certain appearances, in common with those fish which remain longer in either element. This supposition is strengthened by another consideration, that the bull-trout, in so far as I have heard or observed, is taken most frequently near the mouths of rivers; in the Dee, almost invariably within high water mark. To anglers, it will be no slight confirmation of the truth of these remarks, that, notwithstanding its size and beauty, it is a sluggish fish, seldom taking the fly, and when hooked, affording very little amusement.

On the sea-trout and the herling, both of which are very numerous, especially the latter, in the summer and autumn months, it is needless to make any observations.

I will take this opportunity of correcting a prevalent mistake respecting the manner in which salmon overcome waterfalls,—a mistake to which Goldsmith has given currency, and Captain Brown countenance in a late edition of that author's *Animated Nature*. Goldsmith observes (and his annotator has almost verbally copied the observation in a different part of the work,) that “salmon *spring* up cataracts *as high as a house*. As soon as they come to the bottom of the torrent, they *seem disappointed* to meet the obstruction, and swim some paces back; they then *take a view* of the danger that lies before them, *survey it motionless* for some minutes, advance, and again retreat; till at last, summoning up all their force, they take a leap from the bottom, their body straight and strongly in motion, and thus *most frequently clear every obstruction*.” Captain Brown adds, “On the river Liffy, in Ireland, there is a cataract *above nineteen feet high*. Here, in the salmon season, many of the inhabitants amuse themselves by observing the fish leap up the torrent. They frequently fall back many times before they surmount it.” It is evident that some of these statements are entirely fabulous. In both passages an erroneous account is given of a very interesting fact in the habits of the salmon, whose power in ascending cataracts, although very great, has nothing of that miraculous character which such extracts as the foregoing would lead us to ascribe to it. The truth is, that they overcome waterfalls, not by *leaping*, but by *swimming*. The great muscular power of their fins and tail enables them to repeat the blows on the water more rapidly than it descends, the effect of which is, of course, to raise the body of the fish. But this power can be exerted only for a short time, and through an

inconsiderable space. Understanding by a cataract a perpendicular fall of water, without any obstruction whatever, I would say that no salmon can by swimming overcome one exceeding ten feet, or by leaping, one exceeding six. Perhaps even these numbers are too high. I have sat for hours, by a fall on the Dee, observing their motions; and for one that masters the current by a leap, hundreds effect their purpose by swimming, as can easily be seen, while the sun shines on the column about noon, during a very bright day. The fall is not more than four feet in height. The most extraordinary leaps are made not by salmon, but by herlings, some of which I have seen spinning to a height of ten feet perpendicular, as near as I could judge.

We have loach and stickle-back, but no minnows.

The natural history of the eel is, in some respects, very curious, and may be regarded as the converse of that of the salmon. Both are migratory; but, while the salmon is oviparous, and breeds in rivers, the eel is viviparous, and produces in the sea. Eels begin to evacuate the fresh water in October, and, by the middle of winter, not one is to be found, even in the minutest lochs or dams at the greatest distance from the sea. Near the southern summit of the ridge of our hills, there is a small pond for supplying a thrashing-mill. Eels abound in it during summer, but, at the commencement of winter, they descend in such numbers, that, as the country people observe, one might fill a basket with them in a few minutes, by holding it under one of the waterfalls. The pond is within half a mile of the Dee, and the height above the channel of the river, 400 feet. The descent of the water, consequently, is very abrupt, and the singular thing is, how the supply of eels is kept up, since they have annually to overcome so many formidable obstacles, as the communication between the river and the pond presents. In the beginning of May, the young eels begin to appear, and, by the end of that month, thousands, myriads, millions, are terms not more than adequate to describe the appearance of these fish. Their heads are all directed up the stream. The instinct which prompts them to ascend appears in a striking manner at the narrow gorge of a pool, where the current is too powerful to admit of their passing upwards. There they are to be seen struggling for days, and even for weeks, forcing their way over the damp moss that adheres to the edges of the rocks, and perishing in such vast numbers among the crevices from whence the water disappears in dry sea-

sons, that the stench arising from their dead bodies resembles that of a large animal cast away on the shore. I had often perceived this disagreeable smell before I ascertained the cause. But the most singular thing connected with the appearance of the eel fry in the river is the simultaneous arrival of the old eels, who regularly prey upon their own offspring, which they take in a variety of ways; sometimes lying nearly covered with the young brood, and devouring them at their leisure; sometimes singling them out and pursuing them as a hawk does a small bird, and sucking them in at the surface of the water with a loud smack. It was long before I knew whence this very peculiar sound proceeded, which may be heard incessantly repeated in one large deep pool, when the river is low and the weather calm.

Adders are very numerous in the moors. The "refulgent lamp" of the glow-worm is often visible. On hot moist evenings I have seen multitudes of these beautiful insects scattered like "sparkling gems" over our meadows. From a bog, about a mile from the manse, I have frequently brought a plentiful crop to my garden, which, for many nights *after* their transportation, they would continue to illuminate. I had thrown *seven one night* into a grass plot in front of my house, and was much amused, next evening, at the alarm of one of my servants, who rushed suddenly into my room, exclaiming, that the grass before the door was "in a bleeze." The poor woman, who never in her life had seen so many glow-worms, had some reason for her apprehensions, as many a "bleeze" is less brilliant than the lustre of these earth-born pleiades.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Antiquities, &c.*—On one of the wildest and least frequented moors is a Druidical circle and cairn. The stones which compose the circle are eleven in number, with a twelfth one in the centre, the summits of them all just appearing at the surface of the ground. The large pile of stones which constitutes the cairn, is a few paces to the westward of the circle. Not far from these, on Kirkconnel moor, is the grave of a martyr called M'Clement, who was slain along with four others, and buried on that spot during "the persecution" in 1685. One of his fellow-sufferers is interred in the church-yard of Anwoth, where there is a long rhymed epitaph on his gravestone, which is printed in the "Cloud of Witnesses." Ten years ago, a sermon was preached on the spot where he was killed, and a collection made to defray the expense of a monument to his

memory. An immense multitude, amounting to many thousands, assembled. The collection came to L. 27, consisting almost entirely of halfpence, of which L. 5 were presented to the preacher, and the rest was employed in putting up a stone pillar, with a great number of inscriptions. It was unskilfully built, and is at present threatening to fall in pieces. The name of the gentleman who conducted the services of that day is Osborne. His discourse, which he printed, is an elaborate and strong performance, without the slightest reference either to times of religious persecution, or to the history of the martyr, M'Clement. Of the Abbey of Tongland, built in the twelfth century by Fergus, Lord of Galloway, of whom the present family of M'Dowall in Wigtonshire is descended, only a single small and low arch remains. It forms part of the northern wall of the old church, one of the meanest of buildings, having evidently been permitted to remain for the sake of convenience and economy. It is almost entirely built up, the only open space left being a little square hole in which a pane or two of glass had been stuck by way of window to the congregation.\* In trenching a piece of ground for a garden, some years since, near the farm-house of Kirkconnel, the workmen came on what seemed to have been a burying-ground of some antiquity. Patches of earth appeared much darker in colour than the surrounding soil, and exactly resembling graves in dimensions and shape. In the centre of one of these patches, a gold ring was turned up, without name or date, bearing on the part next the finger an inscription in the old engrossing hand, "The gift and the giver are thine for ever." This, no doubt, had been the marriage ring of one, loving, beloved, and, perhaps beautiful in her day. It suggests the history of our race, and insinuates the hopes of our nature—youth, love, courtship, wedlock, happiness, separation, old age, death, oblivion on earth, and eternal union in Heaven!

*Modern Buildings.*—The present church is a handsome, commodious and substantial building, with Gothic windows and a square tower. It was built in the year 1813. Although so recently erected, it is the oldest church in a presbytery, consisting of 16 parishes, and nearly the oldest in a county consisting of 28—all the others having been either rebuilt, or enlarged and altered so as to suit the increasing population since the date of its erection. It is seated to accommodate 420 people, which is rather more than the half of the inhabitants. On the 22d of March

\* An exquisitely formed granite cell, turned up by the plough at Argrennan, was lately presented by Mr Turnbull to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.

1804, the foundation stone of a new bridge across the Dee was laid by Sir Alexander Gordon, Provincial Grand Master, and at that time sheriff of the county. The plan of the bridge was given by Mr Telford. The contractors were country masons, and the contract price was L.2420, of which part was raised by private subscriptions, amounting to L.1150, and the remainder by a county grant. On the 15th of August, the centres and the whole of the building, so far as it had proceeded, were swept away by a high tide, combining with a prodigious rise of the river. On the 28th of March following, the work was recommenced, but in July the county finding that they had expended upwards of L.3000, and that the contractors were utterly incompetent to carry on a work of such difficulty and magnitude, determined to release them from their contract, to obtain the services of an experienced engineer, and to finish the bridge themselves. It was finished, accordingly, in May 1808, upwards of four years after its commencement, and including embankments, cost the county and the subscribers L.7710! It is a strong and elegant building. The arch is circular, and the span is 110 feet. The distance from Kirkcudbright is less than two miles. The old bridge is a quarter of a mile higher. It consists of two arches, and is still in good repair. It would not have been so convenient for the public, but the ground of its condemnation was its insecure and tottering condition,—an allegation which its present appearance, after a reprieve of forty years, sufficiently refutes. It was built in 1737, in which year it is remarkable that three bridges were thrown across the Dee at different points. The contracts were all granted on the same day, and amounted to L.1000. In 1832, a bridge with an elliptical arch was thrown across the Tarff, about twenty yards from an old one, which is still passable and strong! The foundation is upon wooden piles 18 feet in depth. Notwithstanding this it has sunk considerably in the centre, as appears from the depression of the ledges. There are, in all, five bridges in the parish, three across the Tarff, and two across the Dee,—one of two arches, and the rest of one. Argrennan House, formerly called from its situation, Deebank, the residence of Robert Ker, Esq. is a spacious building, very pleasantly placed on the Dee. The public rooms are the largest in the county, and handsomely proportioned. The greater part of the house was built twenty-five years ago.

*Historical Events.*—An estate and a knoll called Queenshill derive their name from Mary Queen of Scots, who, on her flight from the battle of Langside, is said to have rested in the neigh-

bourhood and taken some refreshment. Continuing her flight, she crossed the Dee by a wooden bridge, hastily thrown over it for her accommodation, about a mile from the present church. The river is very narrow at this spot, which is still pointed out and known as "Mary's Brig." There is a well, also, at a short distance, called by her name, from whence tradition says that she drank.

*Land-owners.*—The principal land-owners are, Alexander Murray of Broughton, at present M. P. for the stewartry; Robert Ker of Argrennan; David Maitland of Barcaple; William Campbell of Queenshill; Thomas Maitland of Dundrennan; Mrs Hall of Valleyfield; Allan Bell of Hillowtown; and James Carrick Moore of Corsewall, eldest brother of the late Sir John Moore, and author of his life. Of these, Mr Ker is the only one who resides permanently in the parish.

*Eminent Men.*—The name of Alexander Montgomery is so closely connected with this parish, by the passages of the "Cherry and the Slae," which describe its scenery, that, although he never lived within its bounds, it cannot be out of place to mention him. His residence, now a ruin, was in a neighbouring parish, at Cumpston Castle, close by the junction of the Tarff and the Dee. Part of the ruin is still standing, surrounded with fine old trees. A sweeter abode for a man of letters could not be desired; but much of its original beauty has disappeared amidst recent pleasure grounds, and the residence of the bard is rendered a secondary object in the landscape, by a large mansion-house which was erected some years ago between it and the river by the late Mr Maitland of Dundrennan.\* How Montgomery happened to come thither is uncertain. Different stories are told, but none of them are sufficiently authenticated to justify belief. One is, that he obtained the castle and the property connected with it by marriage, and that his poem is meant to allegorize that portion of his personal history which relates to what seemed at first to be a desperate, but ultimately turned out a successful and even easy courtship. He was a native of Ayrshire, and related to the family of Eglington. The date of his birth is not known; but it was probably a little before the middle of the sixteenth century.

\* The present owner of "this lovely spot of earth" is Thomas Maitland, Esq. Her Majesty's Solicitor-General for Scotland under the administration of Lord Melbourne, a gentleman who, as is well-known, combines fine forensic talents with the love and cultivation of literary pursuits.



He died in 1611. He was thus, not only contemporary, but very nearly coeval with Shakespeare.\* The "Cherry and the Slae" is an allegory, consisting of 114 lyrical stanzas, of 14 lines each. The measure is the same as that which Burns has adopted in some of his happiest effusions: and, although censured by fastidious critics as trivial and jingling, the example of these poets is sufficient to show, that, in the hands of masterly writers, it is capable of expressing every variety of poetical excellence, the descriptive, the tender, the humorous, the familiar, and the sublime. The great number of cheap editions of different dates proves that the poem has always been very popular. No other, perhaps, of the same length in the Scottish language has continued to be so generally read. The poems of Burns are all very short; the "Gentle Shepherd" is descriptive of pastoral scenes and local manners, owing its success to the fidelity with which it displays them; but it is no mean evidence of the vigour and vivacity of Montgomery's genius, that, by connecting the scenery of an obscure river with the broad aspects of nature, and the history of individual passion with the universal feelings and interests of humanity, he has constructed an elaborate poem, which has been read for nearly three hundred years, not by the inhabitants of Galloway alone, but by every description of persons who understand the Scottish language. The two principal foundations of its popularity seem to be, the exquisite beauty and literal truth of the descriptions, and the shrewd acquaintance with human character and life, which is displayed in many single lines and stanzas, under the most condensed forms of expression. These two qualities, which assuredly have no necessary affinity, often appear mingled together in this work in a singularly interesting manner, and contribute very much to its variety and animation. The sententious sayings and practical maxims acquire grace and impressiveness by being *set*, as it were, in beautiful description; and the descriptive passages are relieved from tediousness and *ideality* by the traits of character and rules of life which interrupt and checker them. While Montgomery worships nature as a poet, he knows and sympathizes with the world as a man who is living in it; and the metrical results to which this combination, or rather *fusion* of sensibility and sagacity conducts him, frequently remind us even of Shakespeare himself. It is much to be regretted, that, in all the editions of this work, the old spelling is retained,—a piece of paltry antiquarian affectation, by which many have been

\* Shakespeare was born in 1564, and died in 1616 on his birth-day.

repelled at a first glance from the perusal of it, as from the investigation of a cypher. Why should not a poem printed for general use be made universally accessible? There can be no doubt, that, were an edition published with civilized orthography, the popularity of the work would be extended beyond its present sphere. Of all the mechanical parts of his art Montgomery is a complete master. One of his most common artifices is alliteration, the injudicious use of which was the besetting sin of many of his contemporaries. In general, he introduces it with great felicity, although, perhaps, somewhat too profusely. It seldom forces him into strained or pedantic words or allusions, and thus, while taking nothing from his ease, it gives, both to his imagery and language, a great appearance of vigour and compactness.\* He has few inversions; his rhymes are very exact; his language is elegant, vigorous, and easy; while in facility and sweetness of versification, he surpasses not only all his contemporaries, but every Scottish poet, I think, except Burns. A living authoress, Mrs Gordon of Campbelton, resided for several years after her marriage at Deebank, of which her husband was at that time proprietor.

*Parochial Registers.*—Those of baptisms extend as far back as 1693. For fifty years afterwards, they appear to have been kept with great care, and are in tolerable preservation; but of marriages no entry is made till 1712, between which year and 1753 there appears to be a considerable regularity in the record. There is then a blank till 1807, the year in which the present Dr Thomas Brown of Glasgow commenced his ministry. During the nineteen years of his incumbency, both marriages and baptisms

\* The abuse of alliteration did not escape the notice of Shakespeare, who in the play of "Love's Labour Lost," (act. iv. sc. 2,) has ridiculed the excessive use of this figure with irresistible comic effect, when he makes Holofernes, an old, conceited schoolmaster, something *affect the letter*, for it argues facility, in inditing his extemporal epitaph on the death of the deer;

"The praiseful princess pierced and pricked a pretty, pleasing pricket, &c., &c." This affectation of the letter did not die with Holofernes, but was used lavishly in the following ages, both by speakers and by writers, and even now, though fallen into comparative disrepute, is occasionally met with in productions of every grade, from the poems of our best bards to the sermons of our worst preachers. Words beginning with the same letters sometimes add force to the logic of Dr Chalmers; as when he says, "Multiply apples as men may they will never transmogrify them into apricots." They often give the finest edge to the sarcastic wisdom of Mr Sidney Smith, and are scarcely ever used improperly by that great reasoner and wit. Of great living poets, Mr Rogers, I rather think, is the only one with whom they are favourites, and, like every figure of speech employed by him, are always introduced with sweet and graceful effect. Whether the same can be said of the following specimen of pulpit eloquence, let the reader judge. The speaker was one of no small pretension, in his day, and I have no doubt thought, with his brother Sir Nathaniel, that his was "a rare talent," for which he ought to have been accounted "a good member of the Commonwealth," "Be pious, but not peevish; devout, but not demure; cheerful, but not childish; so shall ye convert every precept into a privilege and every duty into a delight!"

are regularly recorded. For the six years that follow his transportation to Glasgow, there is again a blank in the marriage register; but from 1832 both that and the baptismal one continue to be duly kept. We have no register of deaths. The number of yearly births varies considerably. For the last thirty years the maximum is 35, and the minimum 18. The number of female births in general exceeds that of male. Of marriages, the maximum is 15, and the minimum 2. Sometimes a year and more has elapsed without a death. The greatest number I recollect within a year is 11.

III.—POPULATION.

Dr Webster's report, . . . . .	537
Statistical Account, 1792, . . . . .	520
Ministerial visitation, 1833, . . . . .	820
Ditto, in 1838, . . . . .	791
Census of 1811, . . . . .	802
1821, . . . . .	890
1831, . . . . .	800
1841, . . . . .	826

The number of families at present is 147.

There are no manufactories. Many years ago, a paper-mill was erected on the Dee, which continued for some time in operation. Contact with the population which it introduced had begun to tell unfavourably on the manners of the original inhabitants, when, in consequence of the failure of the proprietors, the establishment was broken up, and has never since been reorganized. The machinery and all other materials belonging to it were sold, and the building itself is falling rapidly to ruin.

A better sample of Scottish yeomen will not easily be found than what is supplied by the farmers of this parish. Their farms are held on reasonable terms, and in pretty long leases. Two or three only fall under L.150 of yearly rent, and none exceed L.500. These are the limits within the range of which the greatest comfort and happiness may be expected for the farmer. Larger concerns are unwieldy; by engaging in them he is harassed by endless anxieties, and is apt to be led into dissipated habits and ruinous speculations; while farms of a lower rent are insufficient to yield a profit adequate to his comfort, or commensurate with his labour, besides being always let too high by coming within the reach of a greater number of competitors. From the character and condition of the yeomen, there is at present no prospect of any material or speedy change in the general habits of the population, which are entirely those of agricultural labourers. They

are regular in their attendance at church, firm in their religious principles, decent and exemplary in their moral habits. Illiterate fanatics have sometimes attempted to unsettle the opinions, and to efface the early religious impressions of the poorer classes; but their efforts have uniformly ended in ridiculous failure. The charity of the better ranks to the poor, and of the poor to one another, is as great as could be wished. The numerous calls made upon their liberality, both for general purposes, and for the relief of indigent neighbours, are always answered in a manner worthy of their Christian profession. The wealthy are social, liberal, and hospitable; the poor are sober, industrious, and very civil in their manners. Here, indeed, as in every conventional community where it is the privilege of one class to ask, and the duty of others to bestow, the usual charges are reciprocated of want of charity on the part of the rich, and want of gratitude on the part of the poor. It is natural that they who have little should wish to have more; nor is it likely that persons who are in want of every thing, and owe whatever they enjoy to the munificence of others, will ever think that their wants are sufficiently supplied, or that the measure of charity is in any case perfect. On the other hand, I would agree with those who pronounce that he who wants gratitude can possess no virtue, did I not know that the tenderest and most unwearied offices of neighbourhood and friendship are often rendered to their *fellow poor* by the individuals who are most marked for thanklessness to their *superiors*. Well entitled as every Christian philanthropist is to the veneration of those whom he clothes or feeds, it should never be forgotten, that the loftiest philanthropy is that which looks for no gratitude at all; but, intent only on the relief of wretchedness, under whatever form it may be found, continues to "disperse" its offerings over a neighbourhood, in despite of the thankless and even maledictory spirit with which they may be oftentimes received. Two descriptions of the character and manners of the inhabitants have been drawn,—one by Mr Robb, in 1793, the other, referring to a much earlier period, inserted by him in his Statistical Account, although he does not mention the authority on which it proceeds.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.\*

In consequence of the late rainy seasons, the barley crops and the grass crops that follow them have suffered so severely, that several farmers have ceased to raise barley to the same extent as in former years. In some instances the oats of last year yielded a

\* For the greater part of the information contained in this section, I am indebted to the kindness of Mr Robert Wallace, Low Clauchan.

higher price than the barley per bushel. The weight of the latter used to run from 49 lbs. to 53 lbs. per bushel ; but of late it has sunk so low as 42 lbs. A regular rotation system of husbandry is now introduced. Some farmers, I believe, still crop too severely, but, as old leases drop, that abuse is guarded against by the landlords in granting new ones. The rotation extends to four, or in very good soils to five years, but never goes beyond that. Formerly a rotation of seven, and even eight years was not uncommon. Turnips are every where cultivated, and in general to great advantage. The kinds commonly raised are the Swedish, the globe, the purple top, and the yellow bullock.

*Gross Produce, Grain, &c.—*

Oats, 928 acres, at 38 bushels per acre, 35,264, at 3s. per bushel,	I.. 5289	12	0
Barley, 129 acres, at 30 bushels per do., 3771, at 4s. per do.,	744	0	0
Turnips, 180 acres, at L. 5 per acre,	900	0	0
Potatoes, 109 acres, at L. 9 per do.,	981	0	0
Grass land, 2792 acres, at L. 1, 2s. per do.,	3071	4	0
Moorland, 2000 acres, at 2s. per do.,	200	0	0
	<hr/>		
	L. 11,185	16	0
Fishery, say,	850	0	0
	<hr/>		
	L. 12,035	16	0

	Acres.
Land in the parish under tillage,	1346
Grass land occasionally do.,	2792
Uncultivated moorland,	
Partly capable of cultivation,	2000
	<hr/>
	6138

*Live-Stock.*—The large cattle are all of the Galloway breed, with the exception of those on three or four farms, where the Ayrshire kind have been introduced, with a view to the dairy system. The sheep are mostly of the Leicester breed on the arable farms. On such as contain moorland, the Cheviot and the black-faced are kept.

*Rent and Wages.*—The average rent of arable land is L. 1, 2s. per acre. Wages of male farm servants from L.5 to L. 6 per half year, with food and lodging, but without washing ; or L.2 with house and garden, and *benefit*, (the last comprehending a certain allowance of meal, potatoes, coal, and sometimes barley.) The expense of a first-rate farm servant is about L. 12 half yearly. The wages of female servants from L.2, 5s. to L. 3 for the same period. Male labourers per day from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d. ; females from 8d. to 10d. without victuals.

There is a port at Tongland bridge to which sloops of 30 or 40 tons (20 cwt. per ton) come regularly, and occasionally a small

brig imports lime, coal, and bone manure. Exports grain, potatoes, and timber. The lime and coals are brought from Cumberland, the bone manure from Liverpool and Ireland. Lime from 1s. 1d. to 1s. 3d. her bushel. Coals from 10s. 6d. to 14s. 6d. per imperial ton. Bone manure, at an average, 2s. 9d. per bushel. From the extravagant price of coal, repeated attempts have been made to find it in the neighbourhood, but hitherto in vain. The fuel used by people at a distance from the port consists principally of turf, peats, and the weedings of plantations. A great deal of furze used to be consumed by the poor, but the severe frost of 1837-1838 almost totally destroyed it. Cotton mills might be erected with great advantage on the Dee. Falls of thirty feet could easily be commanded within 500 yards of the harbour, and were a spirited and well-ordered establishment of this kind set agoing, it would confer immense benefits on the whole country, but on no part more than the neighbouring town of Kirkcudbright, which has long been stagnant for want of trade, and where all the necessaries of life, and manufactured goods of every description, are of inferior quality and at the highest prices.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church and manse are situated upon the Dee at the southern extremity of the parish. The manse was built in 1798, and is still in good repair. The site is very pleasant, and the views from some of the neighbouring heights are beautiful in the extreme. The glebe consists of about ten acres of land, valued at L. 3 per acre. It runs along the river to the east, and is supposed to include a right to the salmon-fishing in that part, but as yet the question has not been tried. The sum of L. 15, 17s. 10d. is given by Government to augment the stipend.

*Education.*—The public school is placed in the middle of the parish, and is in good repair. The schoolmaster has a house and garden. His salary is the maximum. The average attendance through the year is 75. The branches taught are, writing, arithmetic, English reading and book-keeping. A private school kept by a female has an average attendance of 20. She has a salary of L. 10 raised by subscription. A Sunday school is taught by the same individual. Families residing at the outskirts of the parish find it more convenient to send their children to schools in the neighbouring parishes, than to those within the bounds of their own. By a return which I made two years ago to Mr Colquhoun of Kellermont, it appeared that, of the whole population 1

in  $5\frac{1}{2}$  attended school,—a larger proportion, I believe, than is generally to be found in Scotland, celebrated as its people are for attending to the education of the young.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—We have three classes of poor, regular, occasional, and insane; and they are supplied with aid in three different ways,—by church collections, by subscriptions, and by voluntary assessment. The regular poor are those upon the roll. They are at present 15 in number, and nearly all of them old and infirm widows. The church collections, amounting to an average of L.12 per quarter, are distributed among them exclusively, with the exception of a guinea to the precentor, and 15s. to the beadle; each pauper receiving not less than 7s. and not more than 15s. per quarter. The occasional poor are such labourers as are either disabled by disease or accident, or cannot find employment in severe winters. The methods resorted to for their relief are petitions to the inhabitants of the parish, and applications to the non-resident heritors; methods which hitherto have never failed to bring the necessary supply, although individuals sometimes prove illiberal and testy. In the winter of 1837–38, L. 36 was collected in this manner, which was expended in coals and oatmeal. A voluntary assessment, amounting to L. 24 per annum, is applied to the maintenance of two insane females, who are boarded with relations. Perhaps I ought to mention a fourth class of persons, for whom a voluntary assessment has sometimes been resorted to, consisting of individuals, who, after seeing better days, have sunk to poverty, and reached the extremity of age. Such instances lately occurred in two families, each composed of three individuals,—husband, wife, and daughter. One of them was upwards of 90, and three of them were near it. As they required constant attendance, the heritors unanimously agreed to assess themselves in L. 16 per annum, which had to be paid only twice; all the old people having expired within two years from the time of the assessment. There is every reason to believe, that, had this assessment been a legal one, and as such applied to the general purposes of parochial pauperism, instead of being limited to special cases, it would have become a permanent burden on the landholders. Voluntary assessments cease, as the objects for which they are imposed disappear; but legal assessments create a host of applicants, whose clamours inevitably lead to their periodical and indefinite extension. The only other source of income to the poor is L. 100, verbally bequeathed to them by Mr Alexander Robb, on his

deathbed, of which the interest is applied to their relief. The greatest annual amount I have known arising from these different sources was L. 132, collected three years ago. The average per annum, I should think, about L. 75. The management of the funds is in the hands of the kirk-session, and attended with no expense whatever. Vagrant mendicants, accompanied sometimes by troops of ragged and filthy children, had become an intolerable nuisance, and by their insolent importunities and frequent impositions, had produced an impression unfavourable to the interests even of the native poor. The baseness of some of these miscreants is almost beyond belief. It has repeatedly happened that when the farmers, of whom they asked lodgings for the night, were prompted by a supererogation of benevolence, to furnish them with bed-clothes, the vagabonds would abscond in the morning, before the family were astir, carrying off with them every article of their benefactor's property within their reach. The attention of the gentlemen of the county, however, has been at length energetically directed to the prevalence of mendicity, and the consequent appointment of a rural police, although of short duration, has already had a sensible effect in suppressing the abuse.

*December 1843.*

---

## PARISH OF BALMACLELLAN.

PRESBYTERY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT, SYNOD OF GALLOWAY.

THE REV. GAVIN CULLEN, A.M., *Minister.*

THE REV. GEORGE MURRAY, *Assistant and Successor.\**

---

### L.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—BALMACLELLAN is one of the four parishes in the northern district of the stewartry of Kirkcudbright, commonly known by the name of Glenkens. The compound word Bal-Maclellan is understood to signify the township or manor of the Maclellans, once extensive proprietors in Galloway. The power of this ancient family, however, is now gone; the title of Baron Kirkcudbright, by which a branch of it was ennobled in 1633, is now dor-

\* By whom the following account is drawn up.



mant, and no individual of the name has possessed land in the parish for more than a hundred years.

*Extent, Figure, &c.*—The parish is of an oblong figure, and bounded almost entirely by streams and rivers. From the Ken, on the west, it stretches to the river Urr, which, flowing from a loch of the same name, forms its eastern boundary for several miles. The Craig and Crogo rivulets, rising from the same range of hills, run in opposite directions, and separate it from the parish of Parton, on the south; while on the north, the Garple and another smaller stream separate it from Dalry and Glencairn. The whole superficies is estimated in the county map at 37 square miles. It is the smallest parish in the district.

*Topographical Appearances, &c.*—Along the banks of the Ken a series of *drums* stretches towards the interior for two or three miles. The country then assumes a wilder and more rugged aspect. Moors, morasses, and hills of considerable height appear, interspersed with a few cultivated fields. Eastward, the land has been rapidly emerging from its originally barren and uninteresting condition. There still, however, remain extensive plains of moss, possessing all the sterility of the desert, and apparently incapable of the least improvement.

*Meteorology.*—The climate is upon the whole damp and the heights swampy. As drainage is scarcely known or imperfectly practised, water continues long on the hills. No epidemic prevails: rheumatism is common; and perhaps more people die of pulmonary complaints than of any other.

*Hydrography.*—The lakes or lochs in Balmaclellan are numerous. They are principally situated among the upland heights, but are far inferior in beauty to Loch Ken. This noble sheet of water sweeps the western boundary of the parish, and presents to the eye an agreeable variety of bay, promontory, and wooded isle. The river that supplies this splendid loch frequently overflows its banks till the whole valley assumes the appearance of an inland sea. The most destructive of these periodical inundations occurs in the beginning of August or end of July, and is known in the country by the name of the Lammas Speat. Of the innumerable tributaries that tend to this immense increase of waters, the Garple is deserving of notice. In some parts, it flows through a narrow and rugged channel, while on either side rise lofty precipices wooded to their summit. Its progress is marked by a few waterfalls. The most picturesque of these is the Holy Linn, a

cascade, worthy of its present celebrity, both on account of its natural beauty, and from having been the spot where the ejected minister of the parish, in persecuting times, occasionally baptized the children of his flock. In alluding to the scenery of Balmaclellan, the extensive and varied prospect in the neighbourhood of the village is well entitled to notice. Tourists, painters, and poets have all endeavoured to do it justice, but we have seen no effort either of the pencil or pen at all worthy of it. It will stand a comparison with the fairest scenes in the Highlands, and presents a fine combination of all the features mentioned by Scott in his description of national landscape :

“ Land of brown heath and shaggy wood,  
Land of the mountain and the flood.”

*Geology.*—The principal rocks are whinstone and slate. There are two quarries of the latter within the parish. The metal is excellent, but they have not been wrought to any extent for several years.

*Zoology.*—The lakes of Balmaclellan are frequented by a great variety of water-fowl. Here wild geese and swans are occasional visitants. The coot is rarely found, yet we have seen its rude and singular nest among the reeds on the rushy margin of Loch Ken. It is so constructed as to float on the surface, and to rise or fall with the water. A still rarer bird is the kingfisher. It has been seen hovering over the Garple, and watching its prey as it rose to the surface of the stream. The small grebe is seldom noticed. Herons are by no means uncommon. Allured by an abundant supply of fish, these birds wander at certain seasons by the loneliest streams and most secluded lakes. The rapacious birds are not numerous. The eagle confines his range to the wilder scenery west of the Ken, and rarely crosses the parish. Hawks, however, reared in other quarters, take long flights, and sweep the cultivated fields for partridge and smaller birds. A pair of ravens still maintain their residence. Rooks, on the other hand, are abundant. Swarms of them, proceeding from two colonies in the parish, and reinforced by those of Kenmure, annoy the farmer in seed-time and harvest. On the whole, however, from their destruction of noxious insects, they may be looked upon not so much as a nuisance as a benefit. A few years ago, a sort of grub settled on the summit of the hills, and, spreading its ravages downwards, reduced the green heights to absolute sterility. Thither the rooks were gathered together, and, after waging war with the destroyer,

have roosted ever since, in considerable numbers, on some tall trees near the foot of Cairnsmoor. Of the smaller birds that enliven the grove, a great variety abounds. At the approach of winter large flocks of "lintwhites sing in chorus" on some tall poplars near the manæ. They all pause together, and then after a short interval resume their warbling. A few years ago, the misel-thrush and starling were exceedingly rare. They are now abundant. The cross-bill forms another recent addition to the feathered race of the district. Plantations have increased in the neighbourhood, and there this interesting stranger may be seen, from time to time, extracting seeds, with his singular bill, from the cones of the Scotch fir.

There are no quadrupeds worthy of notice. The little, spirited, and serviceable species of horse once so famous in Galloway, is scarcely ever met with. Of the wilder animals the species are few. Foxes have no particular haunt or *yird* in the parish, and badgers are unknown. Otters abound, but remain the unmolested tenants of the stream. They are never harassed by the sportsman with spear or hound, and only one individual, with a trap of his own construction, has disturbed their peaceful possession of the deep. This invention, if skilfully applied, and with a due regard to the habits of these animals, might be successfully employed for their destruction.

The streams and lochs are well stored with fish, and afford ample opportunity to the angler to display his skill. In Loch Houie and Loch Urr pike are very plentiful; and the largest ever caught in Britain was taken from the waters of the Ken. Here also perch abound, though introduced scarce a century ago. In the time of harvest, a very large species of trout ascends the Shirmers and Garple to deposit its spawn. In spite, however, of prohibitory statutes, poachers and others manage with impunity to sweep the streams with nets, or, in the dark night, spear the fish upon the fords, by means of torch light. The trout of Loch Brack rival those of Lochinvar in quality, and are far superior in point of size. Two were caught this year, weighing five and seven pounds respectively. Barscobe, Loch Skae, and the Lows deserve also to be mentioned. On the whole, there is no parish in the south where the angler may more successfully pursue his solitary but pleasant pastime. The following is a well-known "saw" among the brothers of the rod and line in this district:—

“ When the mist creeps up the hill,  
Fisher out and try your skill :—  
When the mist begins to nod,  
Fisher then put past your rod.”

*Botany.*—Few plants, in an economical point of view, are worthy of notice. Chair-bottoms and mats were once formed of the bull-rushes that fringe Loch Ken. Quantities of the *Vaccinium oxycoccos*, or cranberry, are still gathered from the bogs, and the fruit of the wild bullace tree (*Prunus insititia*) forms an excellent preserve. The brake or bracken, though not abundant, is occasionally employed as litter for cattle. Though the botanist traverse the whole parish, he will find no great variety of plants to reward his labour. A few of the more interesting flowers, however, may here be mentioned. The pale butterwort (*Pinguicula lusitanica*), never found on the east coast of Scotland, is plentifully scattered over the moors. *Pyrola minor* (lesser wintergreen) is found on one spot alone on the Garpie. The densely matted foliage of the water lobelia (*Lobelia Dortmanna*) often forms a green carpet at the bottom of the upland lakes. This singular aquatic, with its pale blue flowers, must yield in beauty to the white lily and water crowfoot, which, in the summer months, here expand their blossoms in great profusion. In addition to these, we may simply name the following: *Solanum Dulcamara*, woody nightshade or bitter-sweet; *Utricularia vulgaris*, greater bladder-wort; *Circœa Lutetiana*, common enchanter's nightshade; *Viburnum Opulus*, common guelder-rose; *Lythrum Salicaria*, spiked purple loosestrife; *Alisma ranunculoides*, lesser water plantain; *Meum athamanticum*, meu or bald-money; *Briza media*, common quaking grass; *Rumex alpinus*, alpine dock or monk's rhubarb. Roses, geraniums, and saxifrages also abound.

The plantations seldom exceed ten or twelve acres in any one place, being mostly confined to small isolated spots. The soil is well calculated for the growth of trees, especially of oak and ash. A few noble specimens of the silver fir were overturned at Barscobe by the hurricane of January 1839. They were of great age, and had attained an uncommon size. A solitary ash tree of a peculiar shape has long flourished at Killochy. It is seen from every point of the compass at a distance of many miles, and is known by the name of the “Daffin-tree.” Probably it was so called from the natives in former days assembling there for amusement, and, like the inhabitants in Goldsmith's *Deserted Village*, “leading out their sports beneath the spreading tree.”

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Remarkable Characters, &c.*—There is no event of importance connected with the civil history of this parish. In 1545, Ar. Scott, parson of Balmaclellan, along with the prior of Inchmahome, was appointed tutor to the infant Mary of Scots, and sent to France with her in 1548 when betrothed to the Dauphin.

The Rev. Thomas Verner, a man eminent for piety, was ordained minister of the parish, previous to the Restoration, outlived the persecution, and died so late as 1716, being the last of the old Presbyterian ministers that survived the Revolution, and father of the Church at the time of his death.

The Rev. Samuel Smith of Borgue, the talented and accomplished author of an Agricultural Survey of Galloway, was a native of Balmaclellan.

*Land-owners.*—The chief land-owners are Viscount Kenmure and John Eden Spalding, Esq. of Holm.

*Parochial Registers.*—The parochial registers have not been regularly kept, and are not voluminous. The earliest entry was made in 1747.

*Antiquities.*—On Dalarran Holm there is a standing stone of great size, but without any inscription, which is said to mark the spot where a Danish warrior fell in a bloody battle. Broken spears have been discovered at different periods in its vicinity.

There is a moot-hill near the village; and, not long ago, a ball and seven pins of large dimensions were found buried in a moss where peat had been cut from time immemorial. Mr Train, the antiquarian, and well-known friend of Sir Walter Scott, gives the following account of this interesting relic, now in his possession.

“A few years ago, as the servants of Mr Bell of Baryown were casting peats on Ironmacaunnie Moor, when cutting near the bottom of the moss, they laid open with their spades what appeared to be the instruments of an ancient game, consisting of an oaken ball, eighteen inches in circumference, and seven wooden pins, each thirteen inches in length, of a conical shape, with a circular top. These ancient “Reel-pins,” as they are termed by Strutt in his “Sports and Pastimes of the People,” were all standing erect on the hard till, equidistant from each other, with the exception of two, which pointed towards the ball, that lay about a yard in front, from which it may be inferred they were overthrown in the course of the game. The ball has been formed of solid oak, and, from its decayed state, must have remained undisturbed

for centuries, till discovered at a depth of not less than twelve feet from the original surface.

“ In the excavations making at Pompeii, utensils are often found seemingly in the very position in which they were last used. This may be accounted for by the suddenness of the calamity that befel that devoted city ; but what induced or impelled the ancient gamblers, in this remote corner of the Glenkens, to leave the instruments of their amusements in what might be considered the middle of the game, is more difficult to solve. These relics, which are in my possession, can now only be prized for their curiosity, the singular position in which they were found, and the relation they bear to ancient times.”

*Buildings.*—Two bridges, in the memory of man, had been successively swept away by the rapid inundations of the Ken ; and it was only in 1822 that a structure of sufficient strength was reared. Three of the piers were built on dry land. A partly new channel was then made to give way to the water ; and now the violence of the current is principally spent on that portion of the bridge which is founded on a rock. This elegant yet substantial edifice consists of five arches, is built of granite from Lowran, measures 400 feet, and can boast of an arch whose chord or span is nearly 100 feet.

### III.—POPULATION.

According to the session record in . . .	1755, the population was	534
By return of the Rev. J. Thomson in . . .	1792, . . . . .	495
By census in . . . . .	1801, . . . . .	554
	1811, . . . . .	734
	1821, . . . . .	912
	1831, . . . . .	1013
	1841, . . . . .	1134

The population in the village of Balmaclellan is 116 ; in Crogo, 60.

Yearly average of births for the last seven years, . . .	25
deaths, . . . . .	10
marriages, . . . . .	4

The only family of independent fortune is that of Carruthers of Craig. Mr Scot of Craigmuirie spends a portion of the year on his own estate, and, from his enterprise and liberality, is a great acquisition to the parish.

Of fourteen proprietors one only is possessed of land under L.50 of yearly value.

Unmarried men, bachelors and widowers, upwards of 50 years of age, . . .	23
women upwards of 45, . . . . .	66

There are seven fatuous individuals in the parish, and one insane person. Six of these are supported by a legal assessment.

*Character of the People.*—The inhabitants generally live in a comfortable manner. They are sober, industrious, intelligent, and enterprising. They live on good terms with one another, and are given to hospitality. The benefits of education are duly appreciated, and they are regular in their attendance on the ordinances of religion. The only game to which they are devoted, is that of curling. All ranks join in this amusement with unbounded enthusiasm and spirit.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture, &c.*—The parish contains 23,737 imperial acres. The land cultivated, or occasionally under tillage, amounts to about 4000 acres. After making a large allowance for land under water, roads, extensive plains of moss, and about 300 acres of plantation, the remainder is chiefly pasture.

*Breeds of Live-Stock.*—Till lately, sheep of the black-faced breed formed the only stock of this description. In one of the largest farms, they are now crossed with the white-faced breed. The Cheviot and finer kinds are also sometimes met with; but the cross, on the whole, is preferred, as better adapted to the soil and climate. Here, Galloway cattle are much esteemed. The cows are almost all of this sort, with the exception of a few of the Ayrshire breed. It is also worthy of notice, that whereas fifty years ago, scarce a dozen pigs were found in the parish, 350 on an average are now annually fattened for the Dumfries market. Estimating these at L.2, 5s. each, the sum of L.787, 10s., or about one-sixth of the rental of the parish, must be realized from this source alone.

*Husbandry.*—Of the general system of farming, there is little worthy of remark. Six of the best arable farms in the parish are entirely in pasture, and the tenants themselves are non-resident. Of those under tillage, it may be said in general, that they are over-cropped. This evil, however, is rather on the decline. A few of the farmers still hold the plough. Indeed the ploughmen of Balmacellan hold a prominent place in the district competitions, and have uniformly carried off a fair proportion of the prizes annually awarded. On some estates the houses and fences are far from good. There, a system of subsetting has been carried on for years, and produced the most miserable results. In general, however, there is a progressive improvement. Landlords grant leases of fifteen and nineteen years' duration, and, on the whole, are indulgent, liberal, and enlightened.

*Roads.*—The roads are excellent. Two more are projected, or in progress. When the one from Troquhain to Minnibus is opened, the parish, in this respect, will be complete, the means of communication greatly improved, and lime introduced at a much cheaper rate.

*Wages.*—Wages for men, including victuals, range from L.10 to L.13 per annum. Women servants receive from L.2 to L.3 for the half-year. Day labourers may be hired at 1s., 1s. 6d., 2s., according to the nature of their employment, and the season of the year.

*Raw Produce.*—The following, according to a calculation made by six intelligent farmers, is a near approach to the average gross amount of raw produce of Balmaclellan.

Grain of all kinds, 700 acres, at L.3, 10s. per acre, . . . . .	L.2450	0	0
Potatoes, . . . . .	900	0	0
Turnip, 30 acres, at L.2 per acre, . . . . .	60	0	0
Land in pasture, rating it at L.2 per cow or ox, . . . . .	3246	0	0
5s. per ewe, . . . . .	1835	0	0
Hay, meadow, and cultivated, . . . . .	600	0	0
Thinnings of wood might be . . . . .	40	0	0
Gardens, . . . . .	30	0	0
Peat, at 1s. per cart, for mere right of cutting, . . . . .	39	0	0
	<hr/>		
	L.9290	0	0
The valued rent is L.3481, 2s. 8d. Scots.			
The actual rent, in 1840, nearly . . . . .	5000	0	0
1792, do. . . . .	1900	0	0

*Associations.*—Notice might here be taken of the Glenkens' Society, as having given a beneficial impulse to the learning, industry, and morality of the district.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Roads.*—There is no market-town in the parish. The roads, however, to Castle Douglas and Dumfries are excellent, and both these places are frequented by the farmers of Balmaclellan.

*Post-Office.*—The nearest post-office is in the neighbouring burgh of New Galloway.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church is conveniently situated for the greater part of the population. It was enlarged and substantially repaired a few years ago, and is calculated to afford accommodation for 370 persons. Though much too small for sacramental occasions, when worship is performed in the open air, it is still sufficiently comfortable and commodious for the ordinary service of the Sabbath. The attendance is excellent. Perhaps, however, about 200 of the population might be advantageously thrown into a new parish, comprehending destitute and remote



parts of Balmaclellan, Parton, and Kirkpatrick-Durham. A neat church has already been erected with this view in the last-mentioned parish. There is little prospect, however, of its being anything beyond a preaching station. The people are poor, and the probationer employed is most inadequately supported.

*Manse, Glebe, &c.*—The manse was built about the beginning of this century. It is pleasantly situated, commands a fine view of the valley of the Ken, and is, on the whole, comfortable and commodious. The glebe extends to nearly fifty acres, and has been well fenced, subdivided, and improved, by the present incumbent. Its value, together with a few houses in the village, may be about L.80. The stipend is exactly L.226, 19s. 9d. Five or six families of Catholics are in the parish. The number of Dissenting families of all denominations is 22.

*Education.*—The parish is remarkably well supplied with schools. Three are parochial, and a fourth is undertaken at the teacher's own adventure. In the principal school, no fees are exacted. This arrangement was made in consequence of a bequest to that effect of L.500. This sum was laid out in the purchase of a small landed property, which now yields about L.70 per annum. The teacher has also the yearly allowance of one chalders, or L. 17, 2s. 2d., as well as a house and garden. The whole number of scholars in the parish at the last Presbyterial examination amounted to 218.

*Poor.*—At present there are twenty-four individuals on the roll receiving parochial relief. Seven of these are widows. The rest are orphans, or fatuous and infirm persons. A legal assessment has just been introduced, but its influence on the habits and feelings of the people cannot yet be determined.

*Inns, &c.*—There are four licensed retailers of ardent spirits in the parish. The sale, however, must be very limited. The inns are poor and little frequented.

*Fuel.*—Peat is the common fuel, and is both cheap and abundant. Coal is chiefly procured from Ayrshire, and very rarely from the ports on the Solway. The original cost at Dalmellington is only 2s. 1d. per cart.

*Drawn up in 1840 ; revised January 1844.*

# PARISH OF KELLS.

PRESBYTERY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT, SYNOD OF GALLOWAY.

THE REV. JAMES MAITLAND, MINISTER.

---

## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name, Boundaries, &c.*—THE name of this parish, according to the former Statistical Account, is Gaelic, and descriptive of its elevated situation; but Chalmers, in his *Caledonia*, derives it from the British “Cell,” a *grove* or *wood*,—which seems the more probable derivation, as formerly a great portion of the parish was covered with wood, many remains of which are still visible in the bogs and mosses.

Kells is one of the most extensive parishes in the stewartry of Kirkcudbright. The extreme length is fully 16 miles, and breadth about 8 miles. It is of a triangular shape, calculated by Ainslie, in his survey of the Stewartry, to contain 37,978 Scotch acres, and about 74 square miles. It is bounded on the north, by Carsfairn; on the west, by Monigaff; on the south, by Girthon and Balma-ghie, from which three last-mentioned parishes it is separated by the river Dee; and on the east, by the river Ken, which divides it from Dalry, Balmaclellan, and Parton. Previous to 1640, the parish was still more extensive; but what now constitutes the western division of Carsfairn was then disjoined from it, and with the northern part of Dalry formed into a separate parish. The royal burgh of New Galloway, situated in Kells, is 24 miles distant from Dumfries, 18 from Newtonstewart, 20 from Kirkcudbright, 14 from Castle Douglas, and 12 from Carsfairn village, through which a coach passes from Ayr to Dumfries and Castle Douglas, opening up an easy and speedy communication between New Galloway and Glasgow and Edinburgh.

*Topographical Appearances, &c.*—The scenery along the banks of the river and loch of Ken is eminently beautiful. Kenmure Castle, with its avenue of ancient limes and verdant meadows; the little rural burgh of New Galloway, interspersed with trees; the winding river and the splendid loch of Ken, having for its back ground the rocky Lowran, and the lofty and wooded Bannan, form

a landscape rarely surpassed. The scenery around Glenlee Park is also most striking and romantic, every where fringed with natural copsewood, and studded with oak trees, amongst the finest in the south-west of Scotland. There is in the immediate vicinity of the mansion-house a rocky and beautifully wooded glen, containing two waterfalls of considerable extent.

The face of the parish is hilly and unequal. Along the banks of the Ken, there is a considerable extent of arable and meadow land, interspersed with copsewood; but on leaving the river, the surface gradually rises into a range of magnificent mountains, of the height of about 2700 feet.

*Climate, &c.*—The climate is exceedingly moist, but mild and healthy. From a rain-gauge kept at Kenmure Castle, the annual quantity of rain appears much to exceed the average of the eastern parts of Scotland.

There fell in 1832,	-	56 inches,	6 16ths.
1833,	-	59	- 2
1834,	-	54	- 12
1835,	-	59	- 12
1836,	-	72	- 12
1837,	-	52	- 4
1838,	-	58	- 0

Average of seven years, 59 inches.

The extreme humidity, however, does not appear to be injurious to health or longevity. Epidemic diseases are of rare occurrence, and the inhabitants robust. The prevailing winds are the west and south-west; but, especially in the months of March, April, and May, there are frequently long tracts of east wind. Here, however, as in other parts of Galloway, its severity is much tempered. Considering the inland situation of the parish, the seasons are generally early. Harvest, on an average, may commence the latter end of August. When attention is paid, the common garden vegetables, such as peas, potatoes, &c. are generally fit for use in the second week of June, and in favourable springs even sooner. The gooseberry, strawberry, raspberry, plum and cherry thrive and bear luxuriantly. The pear and apple do not succeed so well: except the coarser kinds, they are apt, unless in favourable situations, to canker. The fuschia and myrtle, with a little protection, stand the winter tolerably well; and the Noisette rose, without any covering, was uninjured by the severe frost of January and February 1838.

*Hydrography.*—The principal stream connected with the parish is the river Ken, which forms its eastern boundary. It has its rise in the east of Carsfairn, or confines of Dumfries-shire. Upon

entering Kells, on the north-east, it is joined by the Deuch, and at the southern extremity of the parish by the Dee, which name it then assumes, and, after a course of about forty miles, empties itself into the sea at Kirkcudbright. The Dee, which separates Kells from Monigaff, Girthon, and Balmaghie, is also a considerable stream. The parish is everywhere intersected by rivulets. The lochs are numerous: the largest is Loch Ken, in the vicinity of New Galloway. Its length from Kenmure Castle to the Boat of Roan cannot be less than five miles, by about one-half or three-quarters of a mile in breadth. Lochs Dungeon and Harrow in the north of the parish are also of considerable extent.

*Mineralogy.*—There are no mines of any description wrought in the parish. The hills to the south along the river Dee are masses of granite.

*Zoology.*—Ptarmigan are extinct. Grouse are considered to be on the decrease, partly from poaching, and probably also from the great increase of black game, which is abundant. Hares and partridges, were they properly preserved, would be plentiful; as it is, they are comparatively scarce. Snipe and woodcock are numerous. Deer were occasionally seen, in the remembrance of some old people. The bittern has disappeared. Foxes and otters are numerous, but the badger has of late years become extinct. Eagles are often seen, and occasionally have their nests in the parish. Salmon, especially towards autumn, are abundant, both in the Ken and Dee; but there is no regular fishery. Trout are plentiful in Lochs Dungeon and Harrow, and in the smaller streams. In Loch Ken there are pike and perch. Perhaps the largest pike known to have been killed in Scotland, was caught with the rod and fly in this loch by John Murray, game-keeper to the grandfather of the present Viscount Kenmure. It weighed 72 lbs. The head is still preserved in Kenmure Castle, and bears witness to its enormous size. In Loch Dungeon there are char, which are occasionally killed with the fly; and in the river Dee the pearl muscle abounds.

*Botany.*—The parish affords an ample and interesting field for the investigations of the botanist. Amongst the rarer plants are the following:—

*Uva ursi*  
*Pinguicula lusitanica*  
*Meum athamanticum*  
*Geum rivale*  
*Nymphæa alba*

*Anagallis tenella*  
*Cardamine amara*  
*Solanum Dulcamara*  
*Orobis sylvatica*  
*Ornithopus perpusillus*

*Melampyrum pratense*  
*Botrychium Lunaria*  
*Pteris crispa*  
*Polypodium Dryopteris*  
*Asplenium Ruta-muraria.*

and many other rare and beautiful ferns.

There is a considerable extent of natural copse, chiefly oak and birch, both of which are evidently indigenous. The avenue of limes at Kenmure Castle has been long celebrated, and the oaks around Glenlee Park are splendid trees. The only plantation of any extent is on the estate of Airds, the property of Thomas Hughan, Esq. It may consist of about 250 acres. It is chiefly composed of Scotch fir, larch, and oak, and is thriving vigorously. It was planted, we believe, in 1810.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Chalmers in his *Caledonia* gives an account of the parish. There is also a description of it in Symson's *Galloway*, written in 1684, and published in 1823, from a manuscript in the Advocates' Library. It is likewise mentioned by a Dr Archibald in a short account of *Galloway*, printed along with Symson's work. "There is a well," says the Doctor, "in the parish of Callis called Kernadort. The water is very sweet, to which many people resort who are distempered with sore heads and stomachs, and it proves effectual." This well, which is a strong chalybeate, is still well known to the inhabitants; but not resorted to, as in Archibald's time, by strangers, most probably from its being difficult of access to invalids.

*Land-owners, &c.*—The land-owners are, Viscount Kenmure; Sir William Miller, Bart., one of the Lords of Session as Lord Glenlee; William Forbes, Esq. of Callendar; Thomas Hughan, Esq. of Airds; John Kennedy, Esq. of Knocknalling; John Hoggan, Esq. of Stranfasket; William Grierson Yorstoun, Esq. of Garroch; and the Honourable F. M'Adam Cathcart of Craigenhillan. The valued rent is L.4548, 13s. 4d. Scots. The present rental is about L.4800 or L.5000 per annum.

*Eminent Characters, &c.*—Lowe, the author of *Mary's Dream*; Heron, author of a history of Scotland, a most voluminous writer, of whom there is an interesting account in D'Israeli's *Curiosities of Literature*; Gordon, translator of Tacitus, and author of the *Independent Whig*; and the Rev. William Gillespie, author of the *Progress of Refinement, Consolation, &c.*, were natives of this parish.

*Parochial Registers.*—The parochial registers are imperfect. The first entry is in 1693. The register of baptisms does not appear to have been kept with any regularity previous to 1750.

*Antiquities.*—Kenmure Castle is an edifice of great antiquity. At what period, however, it was originally built is unknown.

The charter-chest of the Kenmure family is understood to contain many ancient and curious documents. In the former Statistical Account, there is mention of the remains of a wall or stone dike running through the parish from south to north, vestiges of which still remain. The rocking stone\* is no longer an object of attraction. About twenty years ago, it was displaced from its pivot; whether from the effects of lightning, or by some mischievous persons, is not known. In the church-yard there is a stone erected to the memory of one Adam M'Qwhan, who was shot during the persecutions in the reign of James II., on Knockdavie, a small eminence in the vicinity of New Galloway, upon which there is the following inscription:

“ Here lyes Adam M'Qwhan, who, being sick of a fever, was taken out of his bed and carried to Newtown of Galloway, and the next day most cruelly and unjustly shot to death by the command of Lieutenant-General James Douglas, brother to the Duke of Queensberry, for his adherence to Scotland's reformation, covenants, national and solemn league, 1685.”

This stone was, in 1832, placed in a handsome granite monument, the expense of which was defrayed by a collection made by the present incumbent.

*Modern Buildings.*—The church, which is handsome and commodious, was built in 1822. Glenlee Park, the property of Sir William Miller, was about the same time much enlarged. Mr Kennedy of Knocknalling, and Mr Grierson Yorstoun of Garroch, have both, within these few years, built handsome and comfortable residences.

### III.—POPULATION.

The population in 1755, was	784
1791,	869
1801,	778
1811,	941
1821,	1104
1831,	1128

By the census of 1841, the population is 1121, of whom 436 are in the burgh of New Galloway.

*Parochial Registers.*—The yearly average of baptisms for the last seven years is 3, and of marriages, in which one or both parties belonged to the parish, 8. No register of deaths has been

\* Since the above was written, we have been informed that there is another rocking stone, on the same range of hills with the one adverted to as destroyed, equally large and interesting.

kept, but they bear a very small proportion to the number of births.

There are eight proprietors in the parish, but only two permanently resident, namely, Viscount Kenmure and W. Grierson Yorstoun, Esq.

*Character of the People, &c.*—The inhabitants are sober, moral, and religious, and of sound and healthy constitutions. There is only one fatuous person in the parish. There has, undoubtedly, since the commencement of this century, been a great improvement in the dwellings and comforts of the people. Of late years, a considerable stimulus has been given to neatness and cleanliness in the cottages and gardens attached to them, by the prizes given by the Glenkens Society.\* The food of the peasantry is the same as in other parts of the south-west of Scotland, chiefly oatmeal and potatoes. There is a considerable consumpt of bacon and mutton ham. Wheaten bread is coming into much more general use, and the retail of butcher-meat has, within these last ten years, greatly increased.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—Kells must be regarded, almost exclusively, as a pastoral parish. The grain produced (chiefly oats) certainly does not exceed the annual consumpt.

*Rent of Land.*—In the neighbourhood of New Galloway, the rent of land is L.2 per acre; but, as in other parts of the parish, the arable land is attached to extensive stock farms, no fixed sum can be specified as its value per acre. The fences are in most cases exceedingly bad, and there is ample scope for improvement in drainage, collecting manure, and in general farm management. Turnip husbandry might be most advantageously and more extensively adopted. That agricultural improvements have not kept pace here with those in the lower district of the stewartry, must not be attributed to any deficiency in intelligence, activity, and industry on the part of the occupiers of land, but partly to the great expense of lime, and chiefly to their attention being directed almost exclusively to stock. There can be no doubt, however, that an improved system of tillage, by which the land might be

\* The Glenkens Society takes its name from the district, and was commenced about 1830, under the auspices of William Grierson, (now W. Grierson Yorstoun,) Esq. of Garroch. It has for its object the general improvement of the people. It gives prizes in the schools, for the neatest kept cottages, to apprentice joiners and blacksmiths. &c.

laid down in a richer state for pasture, would eventually be found much more profitable than the one now generally pursued.

The number of sheep in the parish is calculated at 17,040, and they are considered worth 2s. 9d. per head annually. There are 565 Highland cattle grassed nine months, which may pay on an average L.1, 5s. per head; 315 Galloways, kept a year at an average of L.2 per head, and 421 cows with their followers. There are a great number of pigs kept which uniformly turn out a profitable stock. Almost every cottager is enabled to fatten one either for his own use or the market.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

The royal burgh of New Galloway is situated in the parish. Its population by the recent census is 436. In it the Sheriff and Justice of the Peace courts for the Glenkens are held. There is a daily post. Post-horses and carriages are kept, and a branch of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Bank has been established. The roads are excellent in every direction. The bridges are generally in good repair. The one across the Ken in the vicinity of New Galloway is built of granite. It is a beautiful bridge, highly ornamental to the district, consisting of five arches, the span of the centre one being 90 feet.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church with regard to the population is centrically situated. It is seated for 560, but can accommodate more. It was built in 1822, and is in excellent repair. None of the pews are let. The attendance is good and regular. The number of communicants may vary from 350 to 400. There is no Dissenting place of worship in the parish. The number of Dissenters in the parish may amount perhaps to 50; of these about 9 are Episcopalians, 10 Irish Roman Catholics, and the remaining belong to the United Associate Synod of the Secession church. There is a Sabbath school in New Galloway, which is well attended. The annual collections for religious purposes may amount to L.10 or L.12.

The manse was built in 1806, and an addition to it in 1836. Though the rooms are smaller than in the manses more recently built, it is now a convenient and comfortable dwelling, quite suitable to the benefice. The glebe, including the garden and site of the manse, consists of about 8 acres, and may be worth L.15 per annum. The teinds are exhausted. The money stipend is L.299, 9s. 8½d., of which sum L.9, 19s. 6d. is payable from the



teinds of Carsfairn. In 1755, the stipend was L. 67, 18s. 4d.; when the last Statistical Account was written, L. 80, 11s. 3d.; and previous to the late augmentation in 1834, 12 chalders, half meal, half barley. The rectory of Kells was united by Robert I. to the archdeaconry of Galloway. But in the beginning of the sixteenth century, when James IV. enlarged the establishment of the chapel royal at Stirling, the church of Kells was transferred to it, and constituted one of the prebends of that establishment.

*Education.*—The only school in the parish is the parochial one, situated in New Galloway. In addition to the elementary branches, Latin, Greek, French, and geography are taught. The salary is the maximum of two chalders, and the whole emoluments of the teacher, including wages and Candlemas offerings, may amount yearly to L. 65 or L. 70. The fees for English are 2s.; with writing, 2s. 6d.; with arithmetic, 3s.; with Latin, French, and Geography, 5s. per quarter. The school is excellently taught, and a great stimulus has been given to the pupils by the prizes awarded by the Glenkens Society. A school is much required in the northern part of the parish.\* The people are intelligent and fully alive to the advantages of education. They can all read and almost universally write. There is a good village library attached to the Sabbath school.

*Poor.*—The number of paupers on the roll has of late years been 18 or 20. Their allowances, except when they require a person to attend to them, vary from 7s. 6d. to 15s. per quarter; but extraordinary cases are constantly occurring, when more must be given. The six years previous to 1842, from the failure in the potato crop, the advance in the price of meal, and the scarcity of peat, owing to the wet summers, pressed very heavily on the poor.

The annual church collections now average from L. 35 to L. 40, —occasional donations, proclamations, and mortcloth fees, L. 16. These sums, with the interest of L. 522, 16s. at present in the hands of the kirk-session, have hitherto met all the ordinary expense of the poor. The feeling of shame at being put upon the poor roll, both on the part of individuals themselves, and their relatives, has rather decreased. There is a growing impression, that the heri-

\* This defect, since the above was written, has to a certain extent been removed, through the liberality of John Kennedy, Esq. who has built a school on his property, and pays a small salary to the teacher.

tors can be compelled by the sheriff to grant relief. There is, however, a great repugnancy on the part of the paupers to be removed to anything like a workhouse; that is, to being collected into one dwelling, with a person to attend to them.

*Fairs, &c.*—Formerly there were four fairs in New Galloway. The April, midsummer, and Hallow fairs are still pretty numerously attended. Little business, except hiring, is transacted at them. Cattle-markets have recently been commenced, with every prospect of success. There are three inns in New Galloway, and one public house in a remote part of the parish. Fuel is expensive. Peats are most generally used by the peasantry and in the farm kitchens. They are becoming scarce, and cannot cost less than 3s. per cart load. Coal are brought from Dalmellington in Ayrshire; they cost at the pit 3s. or 3s. 6d. per ton of twenty cwt.; but there is a land carriage of twenty-four miles to New Galloway, which necessarily renders them very expensive.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The comforts of the people have been undoubtedly much increased since the last Statistical Account was written. At that period, and down even to the last fifteen or twenty years, salted provisions were alone used from Martinmas to July. The houses have undergone a great improvement. Roads, which in 1792 were mere mountain tracks, have been opened up in every direction. The church collections, which then averaged only L.12, 10s. per annum, now average L.35 or L.40, and this without any additional resident heritors to swell the amount,—a circumstance showing both a more general attendance upon ordinances, and greater ability on the part of the people to contribute to the poor, while the number of paupers, when the population is considered, has not proportionally increased. There appears to have been no increase in the number of sheep and cattle kept in the parish, but in the quality of the stock there has been a vast improvement. In agriculture, though a more liberal system of husbandry is certainly gaining ground, much remains to be done. The fences and drainage are both bad, nor in many cases is the value of manure at all appreciated as it ought to be, either as a mean for top-dressing meadow land, or to enable the farmer permanently to improve his pasturage by sowing out his fields in a luxuriant state. The two great impediments in the way of farther improvements are the expense of lime, and several farms susceptible of profitable tillage,

having been thrown together as sheep walks. Upon the whole, however, the social condition of the people is on the advance, and though some may yet talk of the good old times, as if want and misery had then been almost unknown, were their fathers, who kept a few potatoes as a treat for Halloween, bled their cattle in spring to make blood puddings, sent their children to school with "a cauld kail blade" in their pockets for a *piece*, and luxuriated on black oats and braxy, to revisit the parish, they would be astonished to behold comforts and refinements in the dwellings of the farmers, and even in many of the peasantry, which in their day were unknown even in the houses of men of moderate landed property.

*October 1839.*

*Revised, February 1844.*

## PARISH OF MINNIGAFF.

PRESBYTERY OF WIGTON, SYNOD OF GALLOWAY.

THE REV. MICHAEL STEWART JOHNSTONE, MINISTER.\*

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Etymology.*—PRIOR to the year 1664, the name of the parish appears to have been written Monnygaffe and Minnegoffe. In the records of the kirk-session, which commence in 1694, it is indiscriminately Monnygoff, Monogof, Minnigoff, and Monigaf. It first appears as Minnigaff in the records of 1737, in which way it is now generally written. The name is evidently derived from the Gaelic *monna dhubh*, signifying a *dark mountainous region*,—a description peculiarly characteristic of the aspect of the parish.

*Extent and Boundaries.*—The parish is upwards of 20 miles in length from north to south, and varies from 8 to 12 in breadth from east to west, and contains 127 square miles. Its figure is an irregular oblong. It is bounded on the west by the river Cree, which separates it from Penninghame; on the south and south-east, by the parishes of Kirkmabreck and Girthon; on the east, by the parishes of Kells and Carsphairn, the river

\* This account was drawn up by Mr Thomas Hogg, Minnigaff Mill.

Dee being the natural boundary; and on the north and north-west, by the parishes of Straiton, Barr, and Colmonell.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The general aspect of the parish is mountainous, being a portion of the range of hills stretching from St Abb's Head on the eastern coast. In the south-western extremity, a stripe of carse land extends for several miles along the Cree, but it is of no great breadth. The highest hill is the Meyrick, which is 2500 feet above the level of the sea. Cairnsmuir hill, though lower, appears nearly as high as the Meyrick, from its base rising almost from the level of the sea. From the summit of Cairnsmuir, a most extensive and varied prospect is enjoyed. At its base, the Palnure flows through a beautiful valley, ornamented by the finely wooded grounds around the mansions of Cairnsmuir and Bargaly. Westwards, the House of Kirouchtree, the seat of Lady Heron Maxwell, is visible amid the old trees by which it is embosomed. On the Penkill Water is situated the romantic cottage of Cumloden, the summer residence of the Earl of Galloway. The "crystal Cree," in its serpentine course, appears like a stream of molten silver, till it disappears among the upland hills. On its banks, the most prominent object is the town of Newton-Stewart, with its beautiful new church and elegant spire, beyond comparison the most splendid church in Galloway. Beyond the Cree, Wigtonshire lies extended, diversified by hill and dale, verdant pastures and fruitful fields, ornamented by the seats of the nobility and gentry, with which it is studded. To seaward, the Isle of Man is distinctly seen, and the Irish mountains are visible in the distance. Southwards is seen the vale of Fleet, with the pleasant town of Gatehouse, embellished by the richly-wooded pleasure-grounds around the splendid mansion of Cally. Onwards appears the ancient burgh of Kirkcudbright, with its beautiful environs, and the horizon is bounded by the blue mountains of Cumberland.

*Climate.*—In the lower part of the parish, the barometer ranges from 28 to 31 inches, rarely falling below the former or exceeding the latter point. The climate is mild, though rather humid. The parish is healthy, and instances of longevity are not unfrequent. The person mentioned in the last Account as being 118 years of age, died aged 121. In 1831, a man died upwards of 100 years old. This spring two females died, the one aged 91 and the other 92. An old man still survives who is 95 years of age.

*Hydrography.*—The parish contains abundance of springs, though none of any magnitude. It abounds in lochs, there being ten within its boundaries, but none of great extent. The largest are Loch Trool and Loch Dee, neither of which exceed two miles in length. Loch Trool is situated in a singularly picturesque spot, almost environed by lofty hills, down whose sides rush numerous rills, which at a distance appear like streaks of snow. On the south and north, the hills rise from the very edge of the loch—that on the northern side rising precipitously. Eastwards the hills recede from the head of the loch, the intervening space being covered with waving woods and rich meadow land. The lower end is beautifully wooded on the southern shore. The hills on the opposite side were formerly covered with wood, chiefly oak; but having been cut a number of years ago, the young shoots were destroyed by goats; and so effectually did they complete their devastations, that only a few solitary trees remain. The river Cree, which has its source in Loch Moan, on the boundaries of this parish and Colmonell, is the most considerable stream. On issuing from the loch, its course for several miles is through a bleak moorland district. About a mile below the high bridge of Cree, it is joined by the water of Minnoch, a stream which rises in the parish of Barr. On its junction with the latter stream, the Cree flows for several miles with an almost imperceptible current through rich meadows, and its breadth being considerably increased, it forms a beautiful sheet of water called the Loch of Cree. Below the wood of Cree, the river loses its sluggishness, and flows for some miles through a fertile valley. About a mile above the church, the valley becomes contracted, and the river enters a narrow gorge, the banks being richly fringed with wood. This portion of the river is termed the “Gill,” and the water, for a considerable distance, being level, it forms one of the finest views of river scenery in the south of Scotland. At the village of Minnigaff, its waters are augmented by the Penkill, a stream which has its source on the eastern confines of the parish, and, passing through a mountainous district, is liable to sudden and impetuous floods. Beneath Minnigaff, the valley again expands, through which the river flows in a serpentine course, and, after being increased by the water of Palmure, another mountain stream, it pours its tribute into the Atlantic at the bay of Wigton. It is navigable for vessels of eighty tons to Carty, within two miles of

**Newton-Stewart.** The Palnure is navigable, for a short distance, for vessels of fifty or sixty tons.

**Geology.**—The rocks belong to the transition formation, and consist of greywacke and clay slate. In the valley of Palnure they appear partially stratified, with an inclination to the west. Granite is found chiefly as boulders, except at Craighdhews, where great masses are scattered. These have been extensively cut for building purposes, the stone being of a very superior quality. The granite columns, upwards of twenty feet in height, of the splendid portico at Cally House, were procured from Craighdhews. Lead occurs in veins in the south-western portion of the parish, on the estates of Kirouchtree and Machermore. The veins vary from two to five feet in thickness, and dip to the west. For many years, the mines were wrought extensively, producing several hundred tons of lead annually; but having latterly become unproductive, the working is now almost abandoned, there being only three or four individuals occasionally employed.

**Soil.**—The soil is various. In general it is of a dry gravelly nature, abounding with stones. In the valley of Palnure, and along the Cree, above its junction with the former stream, the soil is generally a tenacious clay, interspersed with portions of moss. Boulder stones abound, though immense quantities have been removed from the soil within these few years: they are mostly of granite, and being in demand for building, are cut up, the proceeds assisting to defray the expense of raising.

**Zoology.**—Foxes abound in the parish. The otter is occasionally seen in the Cree, above the manse of Minnigaff. The weasel and the polecat are found. The common gray rabbit was introduced a number of years ago by one of the proprietors, and latterly increased to such an extent as to prove a serious detriment to agriculture; though, these two seasons past, their numbers have been greatly reduced. The red deer and the ptarmigan at one period were common, but both have disappeared.

Among the birds which are natives, or are occasionally seen, may be mentioned the following: The common eagle, peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), the sparrow hawk (*F. nisus*), the merling (*F. aesalon*), the glead (*F. milvus*), the barn owl (*Strix flammea*), the raven (*Corvus corax*), the carrion crow (*C. corone*), the rook (*C. frugilegus*), the jackdaw (*C. monedula*), the magpie (*C. pica*), the lapwing (*Tringa vanella*), the plover (*Charadrius plu-*

*vialis*), the heron (*Ardea cinerea*), the black cock (*Tetrao tetrix*), the moorfowl (*T. Scoticus*), the curlew (*Numenius arquata*), the woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*), the corncrake or land-rail (*Rallus crex*), the common thrush (*Turdus musicus*), the blackbird (*T. merula*), the fieldfare (*T. pilaris*), the redbreast (*Sylvia Rubecula*), the stonechat (*S. rubicola*), the hedge-sparrow (*S. modularis*), the wren (*S. troglodytes*), the white wagtail (*Motacilla alba*), the gray wagtail (*M. boarula*), the skylark (*Alauda arvensis*), the bullfinch (*Loxia pyrrhula*), the greenfinch (*L. chloris*), the goldfinch (*Fringilla carduelis*), the chaffinch (*F. coelebs*), common linnet (*F. canabina*), rose linnet (*F. linaria*), the house-sparrow (*F. domesticus*), swallow, house, (*Hirundorustica*), common martin (*H. urbica*), the cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*), the snipe (*Scolopax gallinago*), the water-rail (*Rallus aquaticus*), the widgeon (*Anas penelope*), the teal (*Anas crecca*), the sea-gull (*Larus canus*), the bittern.

The streams and lochs abound with trout. Pike are numerous in the loch of Cree. Salmon ascend the Cree to spawn in the months of October and November, and return in December and January. Sea trout are caught in profusion in the months of June and July. The sparring is caught in the Cree during March, April, and May. The pearl mussel is found in the river, sometimes containing pearls of considerable size and beauty.

*Deer Parks.*—There are two of these within the parish, one on the estate of Lady Heron Maxwell, which contains about 100 head of fallow deer, and the other at Garlies, belonging to the Earl of Galloway, the wall of which is nine miles in circumference, and contains 1500 acres. There are about 350 head of fallow deer, and about 60 head of red deer, at present within the park. About two years ago, a number of the red deer were sold, and exported to England, and a portion of the park has been more profitably devoted to the rearing of bullocks.

*Botany.*—This parish affords a wide field for botanical research. Among the more rare or less common plants, may be enumerated the *Pyrus domestica*, which is found on the bank of the Palnure, above Bargaly; *Pyrola media*, on the bank of the Minnock, near Borgan; *Rubus suberectus*, on the road to Machermore; the *Trollius Europæus* and *Solidago virgaurea* grow in profusion on a small island below the confluence of the Cree and Penkill, where also occurs the *Thalictrum flavum*; on the banks of the latter stream the *Galium boreale* and the *Polygonum bistorta* are found;

the *Nymphaea alba* and *Nuphar lutea* adorn with their splendid flowers the loch of Cree; on Cairnsmore hill, *Saxifraga stellaris*. Among the more common, in various parts of the parish, are found,

Achillæa Millefolium	Euphrasia officinalis	Origanum vulgare
----- Ptarmica	Fragaria vesca	Orobus tuberosus
Adoxa moschatellina	Fumaria capreolata	Oxalis Acetosella
Agrimonia Eupatorium	Galeopsis Tetrahit	Parnassia palustris
Alchemilla vulgaris	Galium saxatile	----- sylvatica
----- alpina	----- verum	Petasites vulgaris
Agrostemma Githago	Gentiana campestris	Pinguicula vulgaris
Alisma Plantago	Geranium dissectum	Plantago lanceolata
Allium ursinum	----- molle	----- major
Anagallis arvensis	----- pratense	Polygala vulgaris
----- tenella	Geum rivale	Potentilla anserina
Anchusa officinalis	----- urbanum	Primula vulgaris
----- sempervirens	Glechoma hederacea	Pteris aquilina
Anemone nemorosa	Gnaphalium dioicum	Ranunculus acris
Apargia Taraxaci	Hyacinthus racemosus	----- aquatilis
Anthyllis Vulneraria	Hydrocotyle vulgaris	----- scleratus
Arenaria marina	Hypericum quadrangulum	----- repens
Aperula odorata	----- perforatum	Rhinanthus Crista Galli
Aster Tripolium	----- elodes	Scabiosa succisa
Artemisia vulgaris	Heracleum Sphondylium	Scrophularia aquatica
Bartsia Odontites	Iris Pseudo-Acorus	----- nodosa
Bellis perennis	Lamium album	Scutellaria minor
Bunium flexuosum	----- purpureum	Sedum dasycyllum
Botrychium Lunaria	Lapsana communis	----- Telephium
Caltha palustris	----- pusilla	Sempervivum tectorum
Campanula rotundifolia	Leontodon palustre	Saponaria officinalis
Capsella Bursa-Pastoris	Lepidium campestre	Senecio vulgaris
Cardamine amara	Linum catharticum	----- aquaticus
Carum Carui	----- usitatissimum	Sinapis arvensis
Clinopodium vulgare	Linaria vulgaris	Solanum Dulcamara
Chrysanthemum segetum	Lonicera Periclymenum	Spiræa Ulmaria
----- Leucan-	Lotus major	Stellaria holostea
thetum	Lychnis Floe-Cuculi	Symphytum officinale
Chenopodium Bonus Hen-	Lysimachia nemorum	Teucrium Chamædrys
ricus	Lythrum salicaria	Tormentilla officinalis
Comarum palustre	Matricaria Chamomilla	----- reptans
Cryptogramma crispa	Melampyrum pratense	Trifolium filiforme
Cytisus Scoparius	Menyanthes trifoliata	Tussilago Farfara
Digitalis purpurea	Mercurialis perennis	Vaccinium Oxycoccos
Drosera longifolia	Myosotis palustris	Valeriana officinalis
----- rotundifolia	----- sylvatica	Veronica officinalis
Echium vulgare	----- arvensis	----- Beccabunga
Epilobium montanum	Myrica Gale	----- Chamedrys
----- palustre	Narthecium ossifragum	Viburnum opulus
Erythræa Centaurium	Ophioglossum vulgatum	Viola canina
Euphorbia helioscopia	Orchis maculata	----- tricolor
----- Peplis	----- viridis	

A specimen of the *Osmunda regalis* was lately found near Bargaly, being the only plant of the kind that has been noticed in the parish.\*

\* The writer begs to acknowledge his obligations to the Rev. William Gebbie, Cairnsmuir House, who furnished a large number of the plants in this list.



In the garden at Bargaly there is a most beautiful specimen of the evergreen oak, *Quercus sessiliflora*, which is believed to be unrivalled in Scotland. Its circumference, two feet from the ground, is 9 feet 6 inches; it is 13 feet 9 inches to the first branch, below which it is 7 feet 10 inches in girth; the height of the tree is about 60 feet. There is also a very fine variegated sycamore, which measures 9 feet 5 inches in circumference, at 5 feet 6 inches from the ground.

*Woods and Plantations.*—The most extensive, as well as the most ancient forest in the parish, is the wood of Cree, on the estate of Garlies, the property of the Earl of Galloway. It extends along the Cree for nearly three miles, and contains several hundred acres. The wood is chiefly oak, intermixed with ash, hazel, and birch. It has existed for several hundred years, but contains no trees of any size, having been converted into copse, and is now cut periodically, the last cutting being sold for L.6000. Around the old Castle of Garlies, there are about 500 acres of wood, a considerable portion of which was planted within the present century. On the estate of Kirouchtree, a considerable extent of land has been planted. Larch and the various species of fir are the principal kinds planted; on the more recent plantations, oak and other valuable kinds are not neglected. Around Kirouchtree House, there are many large and fine old trees. A beautiful beech grows near Bargaly House, which measures 15 feet in circumference three feet from the surface, and attains nearly 30 feet before it branches off. Within the church-yard there is growing an old yew, which exceeds 8 feet in girth within two feet of the ground. The greater part of the woods are on dry steep banks, and rocky grounds unfit for cultivation, and in general thrive well. On the bank of the Penkill, near the church-yard, there is growing a number of remarkably straight Scots firs; they are from 5 to 6 feet in girth, and attain from 50 to 60 feet in height without a branch.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Accounts of the Parish.*—In the Description of Galloway by Andrew Symson, written in 1664, and published in 1823, there is an account of this parish; and, in the appendix to that work, there is another account, published from the Macfarlan manuscripts, which appears to have been written in the earlier part of last century, by Andrew Heron of Bargaly, an heritor of the parish.

*The Martyrs.*—The Glen of Trool was, in 1685, the scene of one of those atrocities which have affixed so indelible a stain on the reign of the profligate Charles II. On a Sabbath morning in the month of January, a few of that persecuted remnant, who, for their adherence to the cause of the Covenant, were compelled to worship the God of their fathers in the lonely glen and solitary moor, had assembled for this purpose, undeterred by the rigour of the season, when they were suddenly surprised by Colonel Douglas and a party of dragoons. After a brief resistance, six persons, James and Robert Dun, Alexander M'Aulay, John M'Lude, Thomas and John Stevenson, were murdered, one dragoon being killed, besides Captain Urquhart, who was shot by a countryman. He had that morning, on account of the difficulties of the road, sworn a dreadful oath, that he would be revenged upon the unoffending Covenanters. Tradition asserts that he had dreamed that he would be killed at a place called The Caldons, and, while approaching the cottage of a shepherd in search of fugitives, he inquired the name of the place; on being informed, he gave utterance to a fearful oath, and, with the superstitious feeling of the age, drew up his horse, but, ere he could determine whether to advance or retreat, a shot, fired from the window, brought him to the ground. The window is still shown from which the shot is said to have been aimed. A low stone wall encompasses the resting-place of the sufferers, who were interred near the scene of conflict.

*Battle of Craigenallie.*—King Robert Bruce having been defeated by the English in Carrick, retired to the wilds at the head of Loch Dee, in this parish, accompanied by the remnant of his broken forces. Lodging during the night in the cottage of a poor woman at Craigenallie, he was suspected in the morning of being a person of superior rank, on account of certain ornaments which he wore. She inquired if he was her liege lord, to which he replied in the affirmative. He asked if she had any sons who could serve him in his distress. Her answer was, that she had three sons by three several husbands, all of whom would be at his service, if she were confirmed in the truth of his being their sovereign. He then asked if she could give him any thing to eat. She answered that there was little in the house but a grist of meal and goats' milk, which, however, she would speedily prepare for him. While the woman was engaged in preparing the humble

repast, her three sons appeared, all "lusty men." The King being much pleased with their appearance, asked if they would cheerfully engage in his service, to which they willingly assented. When he had finished his meal, he inquired what weapons they had. They informed him that bows and arrows were the only weapons they used. The King, accompanied by the young men, went out to see his followers, who had spent the night in an adjacent glen, when he asked them if they could make use of their bows. M'Kie, the eldest son, observing two ravens perching on a pinnacle of a rock, let fly an arrow, and transfixing both birds through the head. At this feat, Bruce smiled, and exclaimed, "I would not wish you aimed at me." The second son, Murdoch, aimed an arrow at a raven on the wing, and shot it through the body. M'Lurg, the third brother, made a similar attempt, but was unsuccessful. In the meantime, the English, in quest of their illustrious enemy, were encamped in Moss Raploch, a great flow on the other side of the Dee. The King observing them, informed the young men that his forces were much inferior, they amounting only to 300 men. Upon which, they advised the King to a stratagem; to collect all the horses, wild and tame, in the neighbourhood, with all the goats that could be found, and to order that they should be kept by the soldiers during the ensuing afternoon and night. This was accordingly done; when the English, hearing so much neighing and prancing, and the horns of the goats appearing in the distance like warlike weapons, conceived that they were surrounded by a great force, and durst not venture beyond the limits of their camp. After a night of apprehension and dismay, the English, though in reality much more than a match for Bruce's small party, were attacked with such fury, that they fled precipitantly; and a great number were killed. There still stands, in the centre of the moss, a large boulder stone, called the King's Stone, against which he leaned his back while his men were gathering up the spoil; and fragments of swords and other weapons have been dug up at the spot, in recent years, by the adjoining inhabitants. The three brave young men followed Bruce in all his subsequent wars, and had the gratification of seeing their stratagem repeated with as signal success at Bannockburn. After the English were completely expelled, and their royal master had firmly established himself upon the Throne which he had so well earned, he remembered them in the division which then took place of the property left by the invaders. On being

asked what reward they expected for all their services, they replied, that "they never had a prospect of great things; but, if his Majesty would bestow upon them the thirty pund land of the Hassock and Cumloden, they would be very thankful." To this he cheerfully assented, and their descendants possessed the lands for many centuries. The eldest, M'Kie of Larg, assumed for arms, two ravens proper, upon a field argent, with an arrow through their heads. The armorial bearings of Murdoch of Cumloden were argent, on a chief gules; a raven volant, pierced by an arrow.\* The ruins of the Castle of Larg are visible, a short distance from the New Galloway road. The family of M'Kie failed in the male line, and the property descended to the family of Heron of Heron, who had married Margaret M'Kie, daughter of the last Laird of Larg, and is now possessed by their descendant, Lady Heron Maxwell. The family of M'Lurg of Machermore had become extinct in the sixteenth century, and, in the course of last century, Murdoch of Cumloden, the lineal descendant of the second son, sold that portion of the lands gifted to his ancestor.

*Eminent Characters.*—The late celebrated Dr Alexander Murray, Professor of Oriental Languages in the University of Edinburgh, was a native of this parish. He was descended of respectable parents, though of an humble rank in life,—his father, Robert Murray, being a shepherd on the farms of Tennotrie and Kitterick. At the latter place, his son, Alexander, was born on the 22d October 1775. Young Murray early displayed an eager desire for acquiring knowledge, and, though too distant to attend school, ere he had attained his eighth year, his "fame for wondrous reading and a great memory was the discourse of the whole glen." His father's circumstances not enabling him to pay the expense of lodging and wages if he sent his son to school, it was not till 1784 that he spent a few months at a school in New Galloway, which he was obliged to quit by illness. In 1789, his father's family removed nearer to Minnigaff, which change enabled him to attend the parish school. Here he was distinguished for his assiduity and diligence in his studies, and extraordinary facility in the acquirement of languages. His attendance at school, however, was very irregular, as he occasionally engaged with various farmers to teach their children. In 1794, by the aid of some friends, among whom the late Rev. J. G. Maitland, minister of the parish, and the late venerable Principal Baird are conspicuous,

\* From an account of the parish, Macfarlane MSS., Advocates' Library.

he was enabled to enter on his studies at the University of Edinburgh, with a view to the ministry. While ardently devoting his talents to the preparation requisite for entering upon the ministerial office, he, at the same time, extended his investigations to every language to which he had access, and not only made himself acquainted with all the dialects of Europe, but his researches penetrated into the languages of the East. Subsequently he made himself master of the Sanscritta, the ancient dialect of India, and arrived at no slight proficiency in the study of the Chinese. He made himself completely master of the Guz or Tygre, and the Amharu,—the two dialects of which the Abyssinian consists. In 1802, he was engaged by the late Mr Constable to edit a new edition of Bruce's Travels, which was published in 1805 in seven volumes, to which was prefixed a life of Bruce. Having, in the meantime, been licensed as a preacher, he, in 1806, was appointed assistant and successor in the parish of Urr. His predecessor dying in 1808, he succeeded to the benefice, and, in December of the same year, married Henrietta, daughter of Mr James Affleck in Grange. In 1812, he was elected Professor of Oriental Languages in the University of Edinburgh; but, alas! was not destined long to adorn it by the splendour of his talents. Dr Murray was naturally of a delicate constitution, and, being attacked with consumption, died at Edinburgh on the 15th April 1813, in the thirty-seventh year of his age. His remains were interred in the Greyfriars churchyard. He left behind him, in manuscript, a History of the European Languages, which was published in two volumes in 1823. A monument, consisting of a granite column, has been erected near the spot of his birth.\*

The late Lieutenant-General the Honourable Sir William Stewart, K. C. B., K. T. S., resided in this parish for several years. He was second son of John Earl of Galloway, and entered the army at an early period of life. He served in seventeen campaigns in the West Indies, Egypt, and various part of Europe. He commanded the troops embarked with Lord Nelson in the expedition to Copenhagen. In Spain and Portugal he commanded the second division of the army under the Duke of Wellington. At Ferrol he was severely wounded, from the effects of which he never recovered. He received the thanks of the House of Commons

\* For the greater portion of this notice of Dr Murray, the writer is indebted to Murray's Literary History of Galloway.

for his able and gallant services. His health having become greatly impaired by arduous duty and numerous wounds, he purchased the property of Cumloden, in the vicinity of the ruins of the ancient residence of his ancestors, upon which he built a romantic cottage, to which he retreated to spend the latter years of his life in retirement. He died at Cumloden on the 7th January 1827, and was buried in the churchyard of Minnigaff, where a monument of granite has been erected over his remains.

*Land-owners.*—The following are the names of the land-owners in the order of their valued rent:—

Earl of Galloway,	-	-	-	L.4477	8	4
Lady Heron Maxwell,	-	-	-	1497	6	0
John M'Kie, Esq. of Bargaly,	-	-	-	763	12	4
R. N. Dunbar, Esq. of Machermore,	-	-	-	351	18	10
James Stewart, Esq. of Cairnsmore,	-	-	-	203	0	0
John Drew of Craigencaillie,	-	-	-	86	10	8
Dr Ramsay of Dallash,	-	-	-	81	7	5
Messrs Campbell and Morison of Meiklecarse,	-	-	-	81	8	10

Lady Heron Maxwell and Mr Stewart are the only resident heritors. Lord Galloway occasionally resides for a few weeks.

*Antiquities.*—The ruins of the Castle of Garlies, the ancient seat of the Earls of Galloway, and from which is derived the title of Lord Garlies, are situated about a mile and a half from the village of Minnigaff. At what period it ceased to be inhabited is unknown. It appears to have been a ruin for several hundred years. The remains of the walls have acquired nearly the solidity of rock, the mortar is so hard. The lime appears to have been produced from burnt shells, portions of these being still discernible in the mortar.

On the summit of a steep bank, at the junction of the Cree and Penkill, within a few yards of the old church, and overlooking the village, there is an ancient moat-hill, which appears to have been used in former times as a place of justice. Another of these mounds is situated in the valley of Palnure, near Bargaly, and is now planted. About a mile eastwards from the latter moat-hill, there is one in an isolated spot on Bardrochurd Moor. Various tumuli have been opened, and found to contain human bones and remnants of warlike weapons. In the course of some planting operations, many years ago, on the estate of Kirochtree, there was opened a large mound, the top of which was covered with clay a foot and a half in depth, under which there was the same depth of gray ashes; beneath this, a vitrified sub-

stance, about an inch thick, was found, which required to be broken with the pickaxe. On removing this, a circular wall was exposed, enclosing a space several feet in diameter, and three deep, filled with red ashes. Under these a large flagstone was discovered, about six feet long by three in breadth, covering a pit about a yard deep, in which were the remains of a human body, which crumbled into dust upon exposure to the air. About a quarter of a mile from Creebridge, on the road to Dumfries, there is a large tumulus of stones, which is supposed, along with those that have been opened, to have been erected over the remains of those who fell in the battle fought by the Scots against the Romans and the Picts, which is related in Buchanan's History in the following terms :—

“ During the reign of King Eugenius, the Roman Lieutenant Maximus, expecting to possess the whole island if he could only destroy the two northern nations, commenced his operations by pretending friendship to the Picts. As their circumstances were the more depressed, and they were therefore the more ready to listen to terms of pacification, he buoyed them up by magnificent promises if they would prove sincere in their attachment to the Romans, and, besides innumerable other advantages, he offered to concede to them the whole territory of the Scots. The Picts, blinded with rage, and eager for vengeance, allured by his promises, and regardless of the future, willingly listened to the General's proposals, and, in conjunction with the Romans, ravaged the possessions of the Scots. The first engagement took place on the bank of the Cree, a river in Galloway, where the Scots, being inferior in strength, were overcome by numbers. While they fled on all sides, the Romans, certain of victory, pursued without regularity; but, in the midst of the pursuit, the troops of Argyle, and other remote districts, who had not yet joined the army, arriving in good order, fell upon the dispersed Romans, and occasioned a great slaughter. Eugenius, profiting by this circumstance, rallied as many as he could of the fugitives, and held a council of war on the present state of his affairs, when finding that, with the forces he possessed, it would be hopeless to renew the engagement, he retreated into Carrick.”

A small urn, containing ashes and burnt bones, was discovered on the farm of Boreland in 1839, but was broken by the workmen

in their anxiety to ascertain its contents, which they imagined might be treasure.

The following communication has been kindly furnished by Joseph Train, Esq. of Castle Douglas:—

“ This was the field of many of my antiquarian gleanings. I obtained from the farmer of Buchan one of the instruments of torture called thumbikins. It had been kept there since the Covenanters were shot at the Caldons. It is now in the museum of Abbotsford.

“ The Kist Vaen described in Caledonia (Vol. iii. p. 233,) was discovered in this parish; and many of the Pict kilns described in the same work, may yet be seen in the parish. On the upland farm of Craigenallie, they were, about twenty years ago, very numerous; and on the farm of Risk, there were seven within the compass of an acre. On the corse of Slaiks, in the parish of Kirkmabreck, they are still more numerous. They are generally about fifteen or sixteen feet in length, and about half that in breadth, forming an elliptic figure resembling a pear. The ridge or side wall is from two to three feet high at the broad end, and at the narrow end, it is nearly level with the surrounding earth at the entrance. The ridge seems to have been formed of earth; but, on removing the surface, it is found to be composed of very small stones, evidently the fragments of blocks broken by ignition.

“ The kilns are invariably placed on the south side of the hill, on the margin of a brook, or where one has been, with the door or entrance facing the water. The only tradition in the country respecting them is, that they were erected by the Picts for the purpose of brewing ale from heather, which is perhaps not unfeasible, as these ancient inhabitants of the country are said to have been thoroughly acquainted with the chemical process of that operation.

“ The learned author of Caledonia says, the practice of brewing ale from heather is of a more recent age than the Pictish period of the Scottish history; but he thinks the Irish cruithne may have used these kilns for that purpose. (Cal. Vol. iii. p. 234.) Sir Walter Scott takes another view of this subject. In a letter dated Abbotsford, 20th December 1816, he says, ‘ The Picts’ kiln seems to be a very curious relic of antiquity. Is it not possible it may have been employed for burning lime? We know that these ancient people were traditionally renowned for their skill in architecture. They certainly seem to have been farther advanced in



the arts of life than their rival neighbours the Scots, which may have arisen from their inhabiting the lower and more fertile land. The *murder-hole* is also a curious tradition. It confirms me in opinion, that our lawyers misinterpret the right meaning of the old grants of baronial jurisdiction which usually bear the right of *pit* and *gallows*. Our legal antiquaries hold that the pit means the dungeon of the castle, and that the grant applies to a right of punishment and execution; but I am pretty much convinced that the grant refers to execution by hanging or drowning. There seems no good reason for granting a right of mere imprisonment, which was in fact common to almost all the king's vassals, whether possessing the higher power of capital execution or not.'

"The dry summer of 1819 exposed to view many oaken trunks, of immense magnitude, lying in the bed of the water of Cree, near Machermore. Mr Newall, the farmer there, collected all the empty casks he could find in the neighbourhood, bunged them up, and fastened them by ropes to the wood in the bed of the river, and as they rose, the casks raised the timber to which they were affixed. In the clay which adhered to the end of one piece that was buried in the adjoining bank at least twelve feet below the surface, was a horn 34 inches in length, 12 inches round the top, immediately below which it spread into three antlers, each five inches long.

"Although aware that to collect specimens of natural history was somewhat out of the direct line of Sir Walter's pursuits, I sent him the horn, with some human bones of extraordinary dimensions found at the same place. The great size of the fossil, and the particulars of its discovery, however, make it appear valuable to him. In a letter dated Edinburgh, 27th January 1820, he says, 'I showed the curious fossil horn to our Professor of Natural History. He pronounces it a deer horn, but a very fine specimen of the largest possible size.'

"There are several very remarkable cairns in the parish of Minnigaff. That of Drumlawhinnie, on the moor of Barcly, is 891 feet in circumference. The Boss Cairns, on the moor of Dranandow, appears to have been equally large; but a considerable part of it has been carried away to make enclosures in the neighbourhood, by which a singular cavity has been laid open. It is eighty feet long, four feet wide, and three feet high, running from east to west, and is intersected by another of equal dimensions, running south and north. The stones in the middle of this

cairn are very large, and are laid in regular courses from the bottom to a considerable height, and become gradually smaller as they are laid from the centre.

“ The cavity of the Grey Cairn, on the Drum of Knockman, is exactly similar and of equal extent to that just described. There is another large accumulation of stones, called the *White Cairn*, on the mark of Glencaird. Part of it having been carried away, a cave was thereby laid open, 18 feet in length, 5 feet in breadth, and 4 feet deep. Several of the stones by which this cave is formed, are upwards of a ton weight each. Nathaniel M’Kie, the Laird of Glencaird, and his two sons, are said to have concealed themselves in this cave during the latter part of the persecution, and thereby escaped the fury of Claverhouse, whose wrath they had incurred by harbouring some people who were surprised at a conventicle in the neighbourhood.

“ The Shrine of St Ninian, at Whithorn, was visited by pilgrims from the most remote parts of England, Ireland, and Scotland. Even down to the time of the Reformation, the relics of the saint were believed to work miracles. A direct line of cairns, from the Nith, from the Doon, and from the Irish sea, can yet be traced to Whithorn. These cairns, it is said, were commenced at a remote period at the different stations where pilgrims were allowed to rest, each of whom was obliged to add a stone to each cairn; which, in course of time, accumulated to the vast heaps on which strangers now look with astonishment.

*Parochial Registers.*—The earliest existing register of births commences in 1694,—there occurs a blank from July 1696 to December 1699,—and again from October 1709 to June 1718; from which period it has been kept to the present time, though a great portion of its contents have been very meagerly recorded. The register of marriages also commences in 1694,—a blank occurs from 1696 to 1699—and from 1709 to 1736; from the latter date to 1771 it has been kept with more or less regularity; from 1771 there is a blank of thirty-eight years; from 1809 to 1821 it has been very irregularly kept. After an interval of seventeen years, the registration of marriages was resumed in 1839, and there is every probability of the register being now faithfully kept. There is no record of deaths. The record of the transactions of the kirk-session commences in 1694; the previous records appear to have been destroyed during the incumbency of Mr William Maxwell, the Episcopal curate. A blank similar to those in

the other registers occurs after 1696. From 1699 to 1710 they have been faithfully kept. There is a blank from 1710 to 1718, from which date to 1740 the transactions have been regularly recorded. From 1740 to 1795 there does not exist any record; from the latter period, with the exception of six years after 1803, they have been regularly kept to the present time.\*

\* The earlier records are interspersed with various curious notices. At the commencement of last century the session appears to have met regularly twice a month, on week days,—while at the beginning of the present one, they sometimes *only met twice a year!* and that on Sabbaths. At the former period, there was public worship regularly on a week day,—and the session contained upwards of twenty members, including deacons. The records bear no evidence of having been examined by the presbytery for upwards of one hundred years, which in some degree accounts for the irregular manner in which they were kept. For the suppression of Sabbath breaking and drunkenness, there appears to have been vigorous efforts made, though the following enactment will appear rather odd:—

Nov. 13, 1695.—“It is enacted yt persons driving goods on ye Sabbath shall be caused pay two pounds Scots, *toties quoties*, and shall be censured as fornicators besides.”

Dec. , 1700.—“A collection is ordered to be made for the slaves in Algiers.”

Aug. 9, 1701.—“The session considering that some persons, as they are informed, drink so long betwixt sermons on ye Sabbath day, so yt they either come too late, or else stay wholly from the afternoon’s sermon; to prevent this abuse, they appoint ye elders and deacons by turns to search ye toun at ye said tyme, as also to take notice that none stay unnecessarily from ye forenoon’s sermon, or withdraw themselves in time of divine worship.”

1702, Jan. 28.—“The session understanding yt some persons repair to Minigoff after sermon on ye Sabbath, and are too ready to tarry too long in alehouses, they enact yt about an hour after ye close of ye sermon on Sabbath days, ye officer toull ye bell to give warning to all to repair to yr severall dwellings, wt certification yt any who shall be found in alehouses after ye touling of ye bell shall be liable to censure; as also ye heads of ye family yt entertain ym;—and yt ye said act may be ye more effectual, ye members of ye session that live in ye toun of Minigoff are hereby appointed, each Sabbath evening after ye touling of ye bell, two and two persons, to go throu ye town of Minigoff and search ye several alehouses yrof, and if they find any persons drinking beyond ye said tyme, to delate ym and the head of ye families qr they are entertained. The minister is to intimate this from ye pulpit ye next Lord’s day. The officer, for his pains for touling of ye bell each Sabbath evening, is allowed twelve pounds Scots quarterly.”

1702, June 3.—“There being a flagrant report yt some persons in this parish in and about the house of Barely, should have practised that piece of devilrie commonly called turning the riddle, as also it being reported yt ye principal person is one Malley Redmond, an Irish woman, for present nurse in the house of Barely, to ye young Lady Tonderghie, as also yt Alexander Kelly, Gilbert Kelly, his son, and Marion Murray, formerly servant in Barely, now in Holme, were witnesses yrto, the session appoints ye said Malley, and ye above said witnesses to be cited to ye next meeting.” Malley after some delay at length appeared, but positively denied having “practised that piece of devilrie, of turning ye riddle,” but acknowledged that she had seen it done in her father’s house in Ireland, by two girls, on occasion of something being stolen, “to fear ye guilty person yt it might restore yt was stolen.” Malley was exhorted to be ingenuous, but she persisted in asserting her innocence. The session, therefore, resolved to proceed to proof. The proceedings occupy a number of pages, and are too long for insertion, but the particulars are comprehended in the deposition of Marion Murray. “Marion Murray, aged 18 years, having been sworn, purged of mallice and partial counsel, deponeth, yt she (not having seen any other person doing it before her,) together with ye nurse, held ye riddle betwixt ym, having a pair of little schissors fastened into ye rim of the riddle, whereof ye nurse Malley Redmond held one point and she the other, and that the nurse mumbled some words, mentioning Peter and Paul, and that when the nurse said these words, the rid

*Modern Buildings.*—A beautiful church was erected in 1836, from a design by William Burn, Esq. Edinburgh. The mansion-houses within the parish are, Kirouchtree, the seat of Lady Heron Maxwell; Cumlodon Cottage, the summer retreat of the Earl of Galloway; Cairnsmore, the residence of James Stewart, Esq.; Bargally, the property of John M'Kie, Esq., and the present residence of Rear-Admiral Hodgson; and the old house of Machermore, presently occupied by C. W. Thomson, Esq.

### III.—POPULATION.

	Families.	Males.	Females.	Total.
The population in 1748,				828
1755,	-	-	-	1209
1792,	-	-	-	1420
By census, 1801,	354	711	899	1609
1811,	355	686	894	1580
1821,	361	903	1020	1923
1831,	352	809	1046	1855
1841,	363	854	972	1826

The decrease for the last ten years is 29, which is to be accounted for by the stoppage of the lead mines, which formerly gave employment to a large number of persons.

Amount of the population residing in villages: Minnigaff, 160; Creebridge and Millcroft, 262; Mines and Blackcraig, 315; country, 1089; total, 1826.

*she stirred less or more, and after ye nurse had said the words, she bad ye deponent say them to, and that she accordingly said the same words back again to the nurse, and that the deponent had said to ye nurse Malley, before ever she meddled with it, that if she knew yr was any evil in doing of it she would not meddle with it, and ye nurse replied yr was no evil in it, and further, that to shift the meddling with it, she offered to take ye child from ye lady's armes, but ye young lady put her to it, bidding her go do it. As also, yt further ye said Marion depones, yt ye same day, a little after ye young lady had her go to ye barn, and yr do it over again with the nurse, which she positively refused; whereupon ye young lady did it herself, with all the circumstances she and the nurse had done it in the chambers before; moreover, that some dayes after, the chamber door being close upon the young lady and her nurse Malley, ye deponent, looking through a hole in ye door, saw ye nurse and ye lady standing, and ye riddle betwixt ym as before, but heard nothing. And further, yt ye lady and her nurse had her deny these things, but did not bid her swear to it."*

For her participation in this affair, the young Lady Tonderghee, Mrs Janet Blair, was cited before the session; and having expressed her penitence for being ensnared into such sinful practices, she and Marion Murray subscribed a declaration to be read before the congregation, "abhorring and renouncing all spelles and charmes usual to wizards; and having been rebuked and exhorted to greater watchfulness for the future, they were dismissed." The originator of the affair, Malley Redmond, after making her appearance to be rebuked before the congregation, was banished the parish.

On occasion of the union betwixt the two kingdoms, we find the following:—33d October 1706, "The synod having appointed each minister and session within their bounds to observe a day of fasting and humiliation, with prayer and supplication to God, for conduct and direction to those concerned in the treaty of union betwixt the two kingdoms, and other weighty reasons, therefore this session appoint Tuesday come eight days to be observed by them for the said reasons, other public affairs not suffering to observe it sooner; and all the members are desired to attend at ten o'clock forenoon.

The yearly average of births for the last seven years is 50  
 deaths, - - - 31  
 marriages for the last two years, 9

	Males.	Females.	Total.
The number of persons under 15 years of age,	368	329	697
betwixt 15 and 30,	208	248	456
30 and 50,	162	232	394
50 and 70,	87	113	200
70 and 80,	21	37	58
80 and 90,	7	13	20
90 and 100,	1	0	1
	854	792	1626

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

The number of males employed in agriculture is	294
manufacture,	30
handicraft, &c.*	85
professional persons and other educated men,	8
male servants,	10
female do.	141

The number of acres of land which are either cultivated or are occasionally in tillage, is about 6,000 Imp.

The number of acres which remain constantly waste or in pasture, is 80,767

There is no common in the parish.

The mosses along the Cree might be added to the cultivated land in the parish with a profitable application of capital, though it is not probable that any attempts will be made to convert them into arable land, until they be exhausted for fuel.

As near as can be ascertained, the number of acres under wood is about 1600, chiefly planted. In the older woods, the oak is the principal tree, interspersed with ash, hazel, and birch. The larch predominates in the more recent plantations, with Scots spruce, and silver firs, oak, beech, ash, and plane tree. Where the woods are periodically cut, they are generally felled every twenty-five years. Pruning is rarely resorted to.

*Rent.*—The average rent of arable land is 16s. per acre; and the average of the whole parish is 2s. 7d.

The rate of grazing for a cow is from L.4, 10s. to L.5; but in most cases, a calf is allowed to accompany the cow. The average of grazing for an ox or cow is L.3, 10s.; for a ewe or full-grown sheep, 4s. 6d.

*Wages.*—Farm-servants, when boarded in the house, receive from L.4, 10s. to L.6 the half-year. Married servants receive a certain quantity of meal, potatoes, and money, in general from L.18 to L.20 a-year. The herds are allowed grazing and fodder for a cow and calf, meal, potatoes, wool, &c.; and their income ranges from L.16 to L.24 yearly. The ordinary rate of wages

\* Males under 20 years of age, employed under these heads, are included.

for labourers is 1s. to 1s. 6d. per day in summer, and 10d. to 1s. 4d. in winter. For cutting peats, 2s. 6d. a-day is charged; and the same sum for mowing hay. When mowers of meadow hay are engaged for the season, they receive £.2, 5s. to £.2, 10s. and board. The season is generally about five weeks. Hay-workers, women or young lads, for the same period, receive 18s. to £.1, and victuals. Female servants receive from £.1, 10s. to £.4 the half year.

Masons, who also work as slaters, charge 3s. in summer and 2s. 6d. in winter. Wrights charge 2s. 8d. in summer and 2s. 6d. in winter. Dike-builders, 2s. 6d. in summer, 2s. in winter; in all without victuals. Dikes of dry stone cost from 1s. 4d. to 1s. 8d. per rood of 20 feet long and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  high, exclusive of carting of materials. For shoeing a pair of horses and keeping a plough in repair, £.3 to £.3, 10s. per annum. Shoeing a horse, 2s. 8d. to 3s. 4d. An iron plough costs £.4, 10s. to £.5; a pair of harrows, £.1, 5s.; a close-bodied cart, £.8. The wood for a five-barred sheep-hurdle costs from 9d. to 1s. at the saw-mill; and when completed, 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d., each hurdle being  $7\frac{1}{2}$  feet long.

*Stock.*—The black-faced is the common breed of sheep kept, though a few of the Leicester breed are reared in the lower parts of the parish. Much attention has been bestowed upon the improvement of the native stock by a careful selection of the best animals for breeding, and by the introduction of superior rams from other districts. Mr Robert M'Millan in Palgown has been the most persevering and successful improver of this hardy race, and his stock, for superior excellence, is not surpassed, if equalled, in the south of Scotland. A more judicious system of management is now generally adopted in regard to sheep stock. Formerly, the pastures were often overstocked; while at present, the stocks are kept rather under what the walks could maintain; and the hogs are commonly wintered on pastures taken for the purpose in some lower district. The present breed of sheep are distinguished by a greater aptitude to fatten, and attain maturity at an earlier period than the old race, while the wool has considerably increased in quantity, though rather coarser in texture. The number of sheep at present kept is 33,500.

The black polled native cattle, usually denominated Galloways, are the common breed kept. More attention is bestowed on the rearing of stock than on the produce of the dairy. The number of cattle is about 2000 of all ages.

*Husbandry.*—The greater part of the parish being of a moun-

tainous and rugged description, is only adapted for pasturage, there being hardly a twelfth part of it arable. Many of the farms are of great extent. The largest contains 4700 acres. It requires four and a-half acres to graze a sheep, and the rent does not exceed 6d. an acre. There are several others little inferior in size. On the arable lands, the rotation of crops now generally prescribed in leases is, *1st*, oats; *2d*, green crop; *3d*, oats or barley; *4th*, hay; and two years pasture. The turnips are generally consumed on the lands by sheep. When the turnips are let, the charge is from 3d. to 4d. per sheep weekly, an allowance of hay being included. In some cases of old leases, the tenants being under no restrictions, practise what course they choose, very often selling off the fodder, to the serious deterioration of the soil. Draining has been carried on to a considerable extent within these few years; and much has been done in draining muir pastures.

Irrigation is not practised, though there is ample scope for improvement in the management of meadows. A great portion of the meadow hay is composed of short, hard, bent grasses. Were irrigation resorted to, the produce would be greatly increased, besides being greatly improved in its nutritious qualities.

*Leases.*—The general duration of leases is nineteen years. A few farms are held on life leases, and several for three nineteen years, and ninety-nine years, chiefly on Machermore estate. These long leases have all been sublet, in some cases four or five tacksmen intervening betwixt the proprietor and the occupier; and being let at a great advance of rent, and the tenants being under no restrictions as to cropping or consuming the fodder on the lands, many of them regularly sell the growing crops, to the great impoverishment of the soil.

*Farm-Buildings.*—Within these twenty years, the greater part of the farm-buildings have been rebuilt or repaired, and are in general commodious and suited to the respective farms. In the higher parts of the parish, a few of the steadings are very inferior; and on the estate of Machermore, the liferent of which is sold, the farm-buildings, with hardly an exception, are in a very dilapidated condition.

*Improvements.*—No improvements have recently been made calling for particular notice, though in general much improvement has been effected by draining, and a more improved mode of husbandry. Since the last Account was written, many hundred acres of waste land have been enclosed and planted on the Galloway

property, and several hundred acres on that of Lady Heron Maxwell. New roads have been formed and old ones improved; though it is to be regretted that portions of the parish roads have not been more judiciously designed.

*Quarries and Mines.*—There are no quarries, properly speaking, within the parish. Boulder stones are so numerous, as to supply whatever materials may be required for building purposes; and granite of the finest quality, and of any size, can be procured in abundance from the masses of this rock at Craighdews. The lead mines are distant about two miles from the village of Minnigaff, on the boundary of the Kirouchtree and Machermore estates. The lead was first discovered in 1763, and was shortly afterwards wrought. For many years the mines were very productive, producing many hundred tons of lead annually. For a considerable period they were wrought by an English company; but latterly, having become unproductive, they abandoned the works in 1839, and the buildings erected for smelting the ore are now in ruins. Since that period the mines have been partially wrought to a trifling extent, only three persons being occasionally employed, and the produce not exceeding twelve tons annually. Eighty fathoms is the utmost depth that any of the mines have been sunk: whether there be any quantity of lead to be found beyond this depth, has not been ascertained.

*Fisheries.*—The proprietors of the lands along the Cree have a right to fish for salmon, &c. in that river. In spring great quantities of sparlings are caught. The rents of the several fisheries amount to L.140.

*Produce.*—The average gross amount of raw produce, as nearly as it can be ascertained, is as follows:—

Grain of all kinds, . . . . .	L.3,000	0	0
Potatoes, turnips, &c. . . . .	2,500	0	0
Hay, meadow, and cultivated, . . . . .	2,750	0	0
Land in pasture, . . . . .	14,500	0	0
Gardens and orchards, . . . . .	100	0	0
Annual thinning and periodical felling of woods, . . . . .	1,000	0	0
Fisheries, . . . . .	400	0	0
Mines, . . . . .	192	0	0
	<hr/>		
	L.24,382	0	0

*Manufactures.*—There is a small manufactory at Cumloden of coarse plaidings and blankets. It gives employment to five men, and a few women and children; in all about twelve hands are employed. Those engaged receive a fair remuneration for their labour. About sixteen hands are employed in cotton weaving. The



wages are very low, and those employed are in very depressed circumstances.

There is a tan-work at Creebridge, at which three individuals are engaged. There are two mills in the parish, one on the Cree at Minnigaff, for flour, meal, and barley, a very extensive building; and the other, on a small burn on the boundary of the parish with Kirkmabreck, at Greddock, for meal and barley.

*Navigation.*—The Palnure is navigable for a short distance; and there is a small quay at Palnure bridge, at which vessels of 60 tons may load and discharge. The exports are, grain, potatoes, bark, timber, hoops, staves; and the imports, coal, lime, bone-manure, and slate.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Town.*—There is no market-town in the parish, and the nearest is Newton-Stewart, on the opposite bank of the Cree.

*Village.*—The village of Minnigaff is situated on a low piece of ground, at the confluence of the Penkill and Cree. It appears to be a place of some antiquity, and, long before Newton-Stewart existed, was of considerable importance,—weekly markets having been held, and where the Synod of Galloway occasionally met. It is now reduced to little more than a dozen houses, and nearly one-half of its inhabitants are paupers. It possesses little external attraction, though, through the exertions of Lady Heron Maxwell, it has assumed a more cleanly appearance. About a quarter of a mile below the village, a street has been formed, and a number of excellent houses erected,—which bears the name of Creebridge.

*Means of Communication.*—The post town is Newton-Stewart, and letters are delivered in Minnigaff twice a-day. The great road from Portpatrick to Dumfries passes for four miles through the parish. An excellent turnpike road has been formed to New Galloway. The road from Ayrshire by Straiton passes for a number of miles through the upper part of the parish, and has proved of incalculable benefit. The length of the turnpike roads in the parish is 23 miles, and of parish roads 30 miles. The mail from Dumfries to Portpatrick passes and repasses daily. A mail-coach to Ayr by Girvan arrives and departs every day; and another to Stranraer, by Wigton, Garlieston, and Whithorn, leaves Newton-Stewart every morning.

An elegant bridge of five arches, built of granite, with freestone parapets, has been erected over the Cree. A bridge was built a

few years ago across the Penkill water, at the village of Minnigaff, instead of one which was carried away by a flood; and one was erected over the Minnoch last year, about half a mile above its junction with the Cree. All the bridges in the parish are in good condition.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church occupies a beautiful site on a high tongue of land, formed by the confluence of the Cree and Penkill, and overlooks the village, from which it is separated by the latter stream. It is four miles from the southern and sixteen from the northern boundary of the parish. It is conveniently situated for the majority of the parishioners; but to those inhabiting the higher parts of the parish, it is at a most inconvenient distance. This evil was distinctly felt upwards of 150 years ago; but, with the exception of a preacher officiating for a short time in the northern district, in the earlier part of last century, no attempt was made to remedy the evil until 1837, when, shortly after the induction of the present minister, vigorous efforts were made, and subscriptions commenced, for the erection of a church at Bargrennan, about nine miles distant from the parish church. A small but neat edifice was commenced in 1838, and opened for public worship in 1839. A manse has since been erected, a neat little building in the cottage style. The parish church was erected in 1836, and is a beautiful building in the Gothic style, with a window of stained glass in the eastern gable, and an elegant tower. It is built of red freestone, and the common whinstone (greywacke) of the district, and cost L.1800. It affords accommodation for 850 persons. There are six pews set apart for the poor, which may accommodate 36 persons. All the sittings not appropriated to the tenantry may be said to be free. The church at Bargrennan is seated for 207. The seats have lately been let at 1s. 6d. each, 14 sittings being free. No constitution has yet been procured, though a district, comprehending portions of this parish, Penninghame, and Colmonell, has been assigned to it. A licentiate of the church has officiated regularly since 1837. His salary is L. 50 yearly, towards which the Earl of Galloway contributes L.20, James Blair, Esq. of Penninghame, L.10, and the Rev. Mr Johnstone, L.10. The remainder is supplied from the collections, &c. There is no other place of worship within the parish.

The manse received considerable repair and additions in 1837, two wings being added, and it is now a commodious house. For

beauty of situation, it is surpassed by none in the south of Scotland. The glebe extends to twenty acres, and is worth L. 25 yearly. The stipend is 17 chalders, half meal and half barley, and has averaged L.268, 0s. 10d. for the last five years, besides L.8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements.

The number of persons belonging to the Established Church is 1597; United Secession, 49, whose places of worship are in Wighton and Creetown; Reformed Presbyterian, 43, do. in Newton-Stewart; Relief, 26, do. do.; Episcopalians, 8; Baptists, 2; Roman Catholics, 81, whose place of worship is in Newton-Stewart; not known to belong to any denomination about 20.

Divine service is well attended in the parish church, and has considerably increased within these five years. The average number of communicants is about 400.

In 1702, Anthony Stewart, in Larg, bequeathed the sum of L.50 Scots for behoof of the poor; and some years subsequently, Archibald Stewart, in Larg, mortified 500 merks to provide an assistant to the minister. The records furnish no information how the money was expended. In 1811, Lady Elizabeth Heron left L.21 Sterling to the poor. The other benefactions are L.100 in the 3 per cent. consols, bequeathed by ——— Dunbar, Esq. the interest of which is to be expended on the poor; and L.100, less legacy duty, left by ——— M'Taggart, Esq. As the minutes of session contain no notice of either of these two donations, the writer is unable to furnish any particulars beyond the surname of the donors. Previous to 1827, Nicholas Simpson bequeathed to the session, for behoof of the poor, a house in Millcroft, worth L.5 yearly.

The only Society for religious purposes connected with the parish is the Newton-Stewart and Minnigaff Missionary Association, instituted in 1839, the income of which has averaged L.14 annually. A Bible Society was formed by the kirk-session in June 1839; 28 copies of the Bible have been distributed gratis, and 50 sold at a low price; 21 Testaments have been given gratis, and 28 sold; making 127 copies of the Scriptures circulated.

*Education.*—Besides the parochial school, there are other two in the parish; one at Bargrennan, in the upper part of the parish, which was built by subscription; and another at Stranord, in the mines district, built chiefly at the expense of Lady Heron Maxwell and Mrs Stewart of Cairnsmuir. The parochial teacher's salary is L.34, 4s. The school fees average L.28, 4s.;

and his emoluments, as session-clerk and treasurer, amount to L.6; in all, L.68, 8s. yearly. The teacher at Bargrennan has, in addition to the school fees, the sum of L.5 allowed by the Earl of Galloway. The fees do not exceed L.10. He generally resides two or three weeks alternately with those farmers who have children at school, otherwise it would be impossible to exist on the scanty remuneration he receives for his labours. The teacher at Stranord has no salary: his emoluments do not exceed L.20 yearly, a sum inferior to the earnings of a labourer in constant employment. In addition to these schools, the Countess of Galloway has a charity school near Cumloeden Cottage, where 25 girls are instructed in reading, writing, arithmetic, and needle work, by a female teacher. Besides those children whom the parochial teacher is bound to teach gratuitously, the Earl of Galloway pays for the instruction of 20 children in the common branches of education at the parish school; and Lady Heron Maxwell and Mrs Stewart pay L.2 yearly to the teacher at Stranord, for the instruction of poor children. There are none of the young, betwixt six and fifteen, who cannot read, though there are a few who cannot write. There are very few persons above fifteen who cannot read, but many of the females above that age cannot write. The people in general are fully alive to the advantages of education for their children; though it is to be regretted, that many of those whose children are taught gratuitously are not sufficiently attentive to enforce their attendance regularly, but allow them to be absent from school on the most trivial occasions. Many parts of the parish are so distant from any school, (being from six to ten miles distant over moors and bogs,) as to prove a serious obstacle to attendance. The population is thinly scattered, and the families are mostly those of shepherds. They, however, display a laudable solicitude for the instruction of their children, and several of the families unite to procure a person, generally a young lad, to teach them, as it is impossible to assemble the children together daily for this purpose. The teacher usually goes the round of each family, remaining a week or fortnight in each, and the children bring their victuals with them, and remain for the same period, and thus an itinerating school is formed alternately in each other's houses. As the most of the families are poor, and consequently cannot afford to give much to the teacher beyond his food, the services of one willing to encounter this expatriation among the hills, are sometimes difficult to be procured.

*Library.*—There is a library attached to the Sabbath school, which contains about 400 volumes. There is also a public subscription library in Newton-Stewart, immediately adjoining.

*Charitable Institutions.*—There is no friendly society or saving bank in the parish. A clothing club was instituted a few years ago by Lady Galloway. The contributors deposit 1d. or 2d. weekly, as they choose; at the end of the year, her Ladyship adds to the sum deposited one-half of the amount, and, for this sum, the depositor receives an order on a draper in Newton-Stewart for what articles of clothing he may wish. This scheme has been of much advantage to many of the poorer class. A clothing depository was formed last year, under the patronage of Lady Heron Maxwell, which is supported by subscriptions. The clothes are made and sold at the cost of the materials, to those who are unable to pay the full price.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The number of persons permanently receiving parochial aid is 46, and of persons receiving occasional relief, 27. In all, 73 persons are on the poor funds, or one pauper to every 25 of the population. The highest sum allowed to those on the roll is 4s. weekly, or L.10, 8s. annually.\* The lowest is 5s. quarterly, or 4½d. per week; the average to each pauper being L.1, 14s. 2d., and the total expenditure, L.138, 8s. 8½d. The income arises from collections at church doors, L.80, 7s. 10½d.; mortcloth dues, proclamations, and interest of mortified money, L.40, 10s. The deficiency is supplied by a contribution on the heritors, according to their valued rents. Many of the poor are Irish, or of Irish extraction, and, among these, there is little disposition to refrain from seeking parochial relief. Among those originally belonging to the parish, there is more reluctance manifested to apply for aid; but this feeling is disappearing, and individuals, by no means in distressed circumstances, do not hesitate to apply for relief.

*Police.*—A constable was appointed by the county for this parish in 1839, whose services have been of much benefit, especially in the suppression of vagrancy.

*Fairs.*—None are now held in the parish, but every facility for the disposal of cattle and farm produce is afforded by the markets of Newton-Stewart.

*Alehouses.*—There are eight public houses in the parish; two in the village of Minnigaff, three at Creebridge, and three in the country.

\* The person receiving this allowance is a man upwards of ninety-four years of age.

*Fuel.*—Peat is the kind of fuel chiefly used : wood is also extensively used. Coals are principally consumed by the better class of inhabitants ; and are mostly procured from Whitehaven and adjacent ports.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The more striking variations betwixt the present state of the parish and that which existed at the time of the former account are,—the population has increased from 1420 to 1826. The rental of the parish has nearly doubled in amount, it having been, in 1793, L.5925, while at present it is L.10,418, exclusive of sub-rents, which may augment the sum to L.11,000,—one farm, which is let at L.42, being subset at L.200. Not the least striking circumstance, is the increase of pauperism. While the population has only increased 28 per cent., the expenditure of the poor's fund has increased 450 per cent., or from L.30 in 1793 to L.138, 8s. 8½d. in 1841, and it is not lavishly expended.

*February 1842,*

## PARISH OF KELTON.

PRESBYTERY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT, SYNOD OF GALLOWAY.

THE REV. SAMUEL COWAN, MINISTER.

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—KELTON derives its name from the British word *cell*, signifying a wood or grove, and the common Saxon affix, *tun*, a dwelling.

*Extent and Boundaries.*—In length, this parish extends about 6 miles ; its medium breadth is nearly 3 miles ; and its superficial contents may be stated at 16 square miles. It is bounded on the north, by Crossmichael ; on the east, by Buittle ; on the south, by Rerwick and Kirkcudbright ; and on the west, by the river Dee, which separates it from Balmaghie and Tongland.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The general outline of the parish is that of a ridge between the channel of the Dee and the basin of the Carlinwark loch. Its surface, though very uneven, abounding with small hills of a conical figure, called *drums*, is almost all fit for the plough. Towards the south these hills gradually increase

in height, until they attain an altitude of 1200 feet. The highest points are Bengairn, the Skreel, and Dungyle. From Bengairn or the Skreel, when the state of the atmosphere is favourable, the view is remarkably beautiful and extensive. Throughout its whole extent, the vale of the Dee, rich in natural and artificial beauties, is visible. Running along the silvery line of the river, the eye naturally rests upon the lofty Cairnsmuir of Carsphairn, overlooking the Kells range of mountains, which separates the stewartry from Ayrshire. On the east and north-east are seen Criffel, Queensberry, and the mountains in the north of Dumfriesshire. Towards the west appear Cairnharra, and Cairnsmuir of Fleet, and on the south, the sea—in the midst of which appears the Isle of Man—lies immediately below. From St Bee's Head—like a giant guarding the entrance into the Solway Frith—stretches, in an easterly direction, the bold outline of the Cumberland mountains, with the line of cultivation, the rich fields, towns, and villages that adorn the coast of England, distinctly visible. Immediately on the east of Bengairn, and separated from it by a deep and narrow ravine, rises the wild and rugged Skreel, beneath which, on the north-east, is the green hill of Dungyle, whose summit was once crowned with a strong fort, in which the British sought shelter from the Roman invader.

*Climate.*—The climate is very variable, generally moist, yet mild, pleasant, and salubrious. The springs are cold, the summers rainy, the autumns mild, and the winters not severe.

The following is a correct register of the rain that has fallen in the parish of Kelton during each month within the time specified, as shown by the rain-gauge kept by Mr Joseph Train, in Castle Douglas. The rain-gauge was erected on the 1st March 1837, and the observations ceased in June 1841.

Month.	1837. Inches.	1838. Inches.	1839. Inches.	1840. Inches.	1841. Inches.
January,		.6	2.2	4.9	2.8
February,		2.4	3.6	3.5	3.1
March,	.7	4.1	4.9	.2	3.4
April,	1.3	1.9	2.2	.3	2.8
May,	1.6	3.7	2.	3.1	3.4
June,	2.3	4.2	2.1	2.8	4.6
July,	4.	3.3	5.3	5.6	
August,	2.8	3.7	2.4	2.6	
September,	1.9	2.1	8.8	7.3	
October,	3.2	3.6	4.7	3.4	
November,	3.7	5.	4.5	4.3	
December,	4.3	2.6	4.4	5.1	

Annual total,

37.2

47.1

43.1

KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

K

Although it thus appears that a great deal of rain falls in the course of the year, yet the porous nature of the soil secures its speedy absorption. Frosts are seldom of long continuance, and snows are felt only in their beneficial influences. The strongest winds and the heaviest rains come in the direction of the sea, from the west and south-west; although in early spring, the east wind sometimes blows without intermission for many days, with the most piercing keenness. No diseases however, are peculiarly prevalent in the parish, the general softness of the climate being no less friendly to the human constitution than favourable to pasturage, and the operations of husbandry. An occasional case of small-pox, scarlatina, and typhus fever may occur, but these diseases never spread their ravages far, nor are they ever of long continuance. The blessing of health is enjoyed in an eminent degree; it is no uncommon thing to meet with inhabitants who, in a lifetime of fourscore years, have never been confined to bed by sickness for a single week, and there are at present living in the parish a man and a woman, both of whom have attained the extraordinary age of ninety-seven years.

*Hydrography.*—Springs and streams of the most excellent water abound in the parish. The river Dee, which has here attained to nearly its greatest volume, being only a few miles from the Tongland rapids, below which it is met by the tide, runs along the whole western boundary of the parish. Immediately above the bridge of Dee, and again at a small distance below it, the river separates, and by the confluence of its divided stream, forms two large and beautifully wooded islands. Several streamlets descend from the mountains and intersect the parish in different directions. The Slackburn and the Auchlane burn, from Bengairn, after running parallel for a few miles in a northerly direction, turn their courses westward, and fall into the Dee, the former above, and the latter below the ancient village of Rhonehouse. Three other burns descend from the Skreel, one of which flows in a northerly direction, past the village of Gelston, and falls into the Carlinwark Loch; the other two run in a south-easterly direction, one on each side of the hill of Gelston, and having at length united, fall into the Solway Frith near Orchardton. One of these—the Yerroch—runs through a beautiful and romantic pass, and, for several miles, forms the boundary between the parishes of Kelton and Buittle.

*Loch.*—Near the north corner of this parish there is a small



lake called the Carlinwark Loch. It covers a surface of about 100 acres. In the year 1765, this lake was partially drained by a canal of about a mile and a-half in length, cut from it to the river Dee. Six feet of water were thus withdrawn, and the loch was reduced from 180 acres to its present extent. This drainage was made for the purpose of procuring marl, an inexhaustible store of the very best sort of that useful manure—the shelly kind—being contained in the loch, and the mosses that were then exposed. The canal served the double purpose of draining the lake, and of conveying the marl in boats to the Dee, from which it was carried to all the inland parishes which lie upon that river and the Ken. Being thus reduced to the level of the Dee, the Carlinwark Loch is commonly a tributary to the river; but after a heavy fall of rain it acts as a reservoir, being raised many feet, and all the adjoining marshes being overflowed by the influx of the river.

The great road from London to Portpatrick runs along the north-western margin of this lake, whose beauty never fails to command the attention and admiration of the traveller. It is confessedly the most lovely sheet of water in the south of Scotland; nor are there many of the Highland lochs with which it would suffer by being brought into comparison. It is fringed with wood down to the water's edge, and studded with finely wooded islands, which afford harbour to all kinds of waterfowl. Overlooking the lake, the passenger has a remarkably fine view of the castle and woods of Gelston, with the magnificent background of Dungyle, the Skreel, and Bengairn. Even after it had enriched its proprietor, Mr Gordon of Greenlaw, and fertilized the whole surrounding country by the marl which it yielded, this beautiful loch was sold to the late Sir William Douglas for L.2000.

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—No coal, lime, or freestone is found in this parish. In the mountains there is abundance of ironstone of superior quality; but the absence of coal, difficulty of access, and distance from the sea coast, must ever prevent its being extensively used. The prevailing rock is of the transition formation—viz. slate and greywacke. The strata of greywacke exhibit many varieties; some, which are called in the country whinstone, are of a blue, or greyish-brown colour; of a hard and compact grain; generally break irregularly, but sometimes split into parallel slices, of which large coarse slates are made. The beds of this stone are of various thickness, from half an inch to many

feet, and generally lie in a direction from north-east to south-west, with a slight inclination from the perpendicular. There are interposed between them frequent strata of the soft, shivering, argillaceous stone, which easily yields to the weather, called slate band; and they are also sometimes interspersed with veins or dikes of porphyry. Of this there is a striking instance immediately in front of the manse, where a dike or vein of the hardest porphyry, about three feet in thickness, has been forced up through a bed of slate band. Granite is found in the mountains. There are also several mosses, of considerable extent, in the parish, which exhibit remains of the ancient forest that once covered nearly the whole of Galloway.

*Soil.*—The soil is various, but in general it consists of a thin light hazel mould, or a brown loam, mixed with sand, or the debris of slate band. In some places it is incumbent upon a stiff clay, and occasionally on gravel, but generally upon the rocks which prevail in the parish. It is very fertile, and yields a grateful return for any agricultural improvement.

*Zoology.*—Kelton Hill was formerly the great mart for the sale of horses in the south of Scotland. Many of these animals were, in consequence, bred in the parish. But the multiplication of fairs throughout the country, and the free importation of horses from Ireland, have divested this village of much of its ancient importance. A considerable number of horses, however, are still reared for the market, though the true Galloway, the once-celebrated native of the district, is now almost unknown. That small but beautiful, hardy, docile, and useful animal has given place to various larger, stronger, and more showy races.

Much attention is paid to the breed of cows. The native Galloway cow, perhaps the most finely proportioned of the species known in Scotland, is generally of a glossy black colour, without horns, of a round and compact body, and capable of being fed to the weight of 45 stones. This fine animal, however, has now to contend for superiority with the Cunningham or Ayrshire cow. Each species has its admirers and advocates ready to assign substantial reasons for the preference of their favourite. The produce of the native, though not so abundant as that of the stranger, is maintained to be superior in quality. Practically, the dispute is settled in this way;—those who can afford to indulge in luxuries retain the Galloway; while those to whom quantity is an object of importance, as the keepers of dairies,—a mode of husbandry

that is becoming common in this part of the country,—adopt the Ayrshire breed of cows.

The greatest share of the agriculturist's attention, however, is directed to the rearing of black-cattle, which may still be considered as the staple commodity of Galloway. In this respect, there seems to be a strong inclination to keep up the character which the county had acquired in the days of Symson, who remarks, that it was "more plentiful in bestiall than cornes." Many more cattle are reared than bred in this parish. Some are brought from the Highlands of Scotland; others from Ireland, or the northern counties of England; and, after being grazed a year, are again sold to the dealers who supply the English markets. They are generally bought at the age of one or two years, at prices varying from L.5 to L.10, and are resold at prices ranging from L.9 to L.14. Some of the best lots bring as high as L.15. Whatever disputes may exist with regard to the comparative merits of the Galloway and Ayrshire cows, there is none with regard to their respective capabilities of being fed for the butcher,—the Galloway being readily and universally allowed to *take on fat* much faster, and to afford finer beef than its rival.

None of the farms in Kelton are held exclusively as sheep-walks. A considerable number of these useful animals, however, are kept in the parish. They are almost all of the cross breed between the Cheviot and Leicester. A few of the small black-faced sheep, the ancient breed of the country, are still to be seen wandering among the rocks of the Skreel. These produce finer mutton than the cross-breeds. All the farmers, and many of the common people, keep a few pigs, part of which are used in their own households, and part brought to market. On several of the farms, large flocks of geese are seen feeding, which, towards the end of the year, are sent to the Edinburgh, Glasgow, or Liverpool market.

Grouse, blackcocks, partridges, pheasants, and wood pigeons, hares and rabbits abound. The woodcock, cuckoo, landrail, swallow, and marten are annual visitants. The curlew, quail, and bittern are sometimes met with. The Carlinwark Loch is stocked with almost all the fresh-water fowls common in the country, as the swan, heron, wild duck, and various species of the jay-teal. Chinese geese breed in the islands; and the solitary cormorant may often be seen swimming among the waves, or sitting motionless for many hours together upon a pile of stones in the middle of

the lake. Various kinds of vermin are also to be met with, as the owl, several species of hawk, raven, polecat, fox, weasel, hedgehog, mole, and rat. The otter has also been seen and snared in the parish. One was lately taken in the Carlinwark Loch that measured 35 inches from the snout to the point of the tail.

The river Dee abounds with salmon and trout; and the Carlinwark Loch with the finest pike, perch, and eels. The *Unio*, or *Alasmodon Margaritiferus*, a kind of pearl mussel, is found in the Dee; and another, but rarer, species of the same genus, the *Anodon cygneus*, is met with in the Carlinwark Loch.

*Botany*.—Kelton offers a rich field for the botanist. Besides the more common plants, there may be mentioned as indigenous to the parish;—

Hippuris vulgaris	Cerastium semidecandrium	Geranium molle
Veronica serpyllifolia	Lythrum salicaria	———— dissectum
Galium saxatile	Agrimonia Eupatorium	Genista tinctoria
———— cruciatum	Spiræa salicifolia	Anthyllis vulneraria
———— aparine	Potentilla reptans	Ervum hirsutum
Myosotis collina	Helianthemum vulgare	Hypericum humifusum
Anagallis tenella	Nymphæa alba	———— pulchrum
Parnassia palustris	Nuphar lutea	Hypochaeris radicata
Drosera rotundifolia	Ranunculus lingua	Hieracium pilosella
Narthecium ossifragum	———— sceleratus	Gymnadenia conopsea
Alisma ranunculoides	Trollius Europæus	Epimedium
Epilobium hirsutum	Scutellaria galericulata	Myrica Gale
Saxifraga granulata	Lepidium campestre	Asplenium Trichomanes
Stellaria glauca	Nasturtium terrestre	Scolopendrium vulgare, &c.
Arenaria serpyllifolia	Sisymbrium officinale	
Cerastium viscosum	Erysimum Cheiranthoides	

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

The ancient history of this parish is enveloped in considerable obscurity. It formed part of the extensive territories of the powerful and warlike British tribe the Selgovæ, several of whose places of strength can still be traced. When Agricola invaded “that part of Britain which is opposite to Ireland,” along with the rest of Galloway, Kelton was comprehended in the Roman province Valentia. The progress and power of that warlike people are still indicated by existing vestiges of their roads, causeways, and camps, placed among the hill-forts to keep the natives in check, as well as by Roman weapons, ornaments, and culinary utensils, found in this parish. After the Roman abdication, the Britons assumed their ancient independence, until the Northumbrian Saxons, in the seventh century, reduced this country under their power. Few of that people, however, who enjoyed a better country and climate on the eastern shore, and who had already conquered a greater extent of territory than their limited population could occupy,

settled permanently in Galloway; and they have left but few memorials, even in bestowing Saxon names upon places, of their ever having gained a footing here at all. Not so with the Irish emigrants, who, after many attacks on the Romanized Britons, before the end of the ninth century, succeeded in gaining possession of Galloway, and at length of the whole peninsula formed by the river Nith and the Solway Frith on the one hand, and the river and Frith of the Clyde on the other. In the topography of the stewartry, these colonists have left innumerable proofs of the number of their settlements. Many of the names of places alluded to, indeed, are common to the British and the Irish, as *Torr*, from *tor*, a small hill; *Dungyle*, from the British *din* or the Irish *dun*, a fort; and *Bengairn*, from *ben*, a mountain, and *cairn*, a hillock of stones; yet the complete colonization of Galloway by the Irish is strikingly proved by the fact, that in this whole parish only two places retain names which are purely British, viz. *Slag-naw*, a compound of *slack*, the name of a burn, and *cnol*, commonly pronounced *knowe*, a hillock; and *Carlinwark*, from the British *caer-lin*, the fort-lake, and the tautological Scoto-Saxon *wark*, a castle or large structure of any kind. The name of *Kirk-cormic*, or rather *Kil-cormic*, as it was formerly written, one of the three parishes of which Kelton is composed, is purely Irish, *kil* signifying a church, and *Cormic* being the successor of Saint Patrick, and called in the Ulster Annals Saint Patrick's heir. For many ages, this people predominated in Galloway, speaking their own language, having their own officers, called *reguli* or kings, being governed by their own laws, and retaining their national manners and customs, even to the point of rebellion whenever they were attempted to be interfered with, as was the case in the times of Malcolm IV. and Alexander II. The manners of the Galwegians, as described by Symson in 1684, shew a great resemblance to the peculiarities of the Irish peasantry at the present day; but recent improvements, and increased facilities of intercourse, have changed the habits and customs of the people, and assimilated their modes of life to the Scottish national standard.

It would be foreign to the object of a work like the present to pursue the civil history of this parish, mixed up as it is with that of the district through all the desolating feuds of its native lords; the wars that originated in the disputed succession to the throne of Scotland, in which the Galwegians naturally took part with their countrymen the Comyns and Baliols, and consequently shared

in all their disasters; the oppressions of the Earls of Douglas; its deliverance by James II.; its distracted state, arising out of the jealousies and quarrels of its petty chiefs; the incursions of the English, until the union of the Scottish and English crowns gave repose to the harassed and almost depopulated country. Suffice it to say, that the parish of Kelton, from its central position, and especially from its proximity to the Castles of Buittle and Thrieve, the strongholds of the ambitious and turbulent families of the Baliols and Douglasses, was necessarily the theatre of many interesting and important transactions, altogether lost sight of by history, and concerning which even tradition is now almost silent.

In Blaeu's "Atlas Scotiae," there is a description of the parish of Kelton, furnished by John Maclellan about the year 1650. It is particularly described in Symson's MS. Account of Galloway, 1684; and it is also noticed in Chalmers' Caledonia, Vol. iii. p. 314.

*Land-owners.*—The following is a correct list of the present proprietors, with their respective valuations:

The Heirs of the late William Maitland of Auchlane,	L.939	0	0
The Earl of Selkirk,	491	0	0
Archibald Maxwell of Kelton,	360	0	0
Sir Robert Abercromby, Bart. of Birkenbog, &c.	286	0	0
William Forbes of Callendar,	281	0	0
Sir J. M. Mackenzie, Bart. of Delvine,	230	0	0
Colonel Maxwell of Orchardton,	166	0	0
James Barbour of Dunmuir,	147	0	0
John Craig of Milnthird,	150	0	0
Mrs Hamilton of Torrs,	140	10	0
Colonel M'Dowall of Logan,	119	0	0
James Cowan of Daldawn,	105	0	0
Adam Gray of Kirkland,	55	0	0
Messrs Hankey, Bankers, London,	40	0	0
Matthew Craig of Upper Torrs,	39	10	0
John M'Kinnel of Over Arkland,	20	0	0
Hugh M'Whirter of Bellerig,	15	0	0
Total valuation,	L.3528	0	0

Of these land-owners, Mrs Maitland, Mr Barbour, Mr J. Craig, Mr M'Kinnel, and Mr M'Whirter reside in the parish. It contains no residence of any of the nobility.

*Parochial Registers.*—It is to be hoped that there are few parishes in Scotland, the registers of which have been so carelessly kept as those of Kelton. The session records extend no farther back than the year 1715. For the next eleven years from that date the proceedings of the session are regularly minuted, and the register of births is also complete. But from 1726 down to 1762, neither record nor register can be found. For the next twenty-two

years they have been regularly kept; but from 1794 down to 1839 no regular records appear to have been kept, and the register of births has been quite neglected. The transactions of the session are now regularly minuted; but so inveterate has become the habit of neglecting the register that not one parent in ten can be persuaded to record the births of his children.

*Antiquities.*—This parish exhibits traces of all the nations who have successively occupied Galloway. 1. On the farm of Torrs there is an imperfect circle of upright stones, the remains of a Druidical temple, in the neighbourhood of which there is a copious spring of excellent water. In such places, the pagan aborigines and their descendants, the Selgovæ, performed their superstitious worship and impious rites of divination. 2. Of the numerous remains of the hill forts of that ancient people which are found in this district, the most remarkable is situated upon the hill of Dungle, near the ruins of Gelston kirk. It is of the usual circular form, and surrounded with three ramparts of stones mixed with earth. At a little distance there is a smaller one, fortified in the same way. The former is 117, and the latter 68 paces in diameter. 3. On opening a sepulchral tumulus near Gelston, which is not far from the route of Agricola's army through Galloway, there was found a stone coffin, seven feet long, and three feet wide, which contained human bones of unusual length and thickness. These appear to have been the relics of some ancient warrior, as there was also discovered in the same coffin, a brass or copper helmet, with several implements of war, that were greatly corroded. There was also found in the neighbourhood "a nicely carved urn," full of reddish coloured ashes. The figure of the urn, however, is all that would lead us to refer this relic to the Romans, as cremation was not peculiar to that people, but practised also by the British; and it was the custom of both to inhumate the urns of the dead, without any pious cairn to mark the place of their repose. 4. A few years ago, a Roman tripod, in a good state of preservation, was turned up by the plough in the farm of Mid Kelton: it is now in the possession of Mr Train, Castle Douglas. 5. A Mummer's head mask, made of fine copper, richly ornamented, and having two long horns turning backwards like those of a goat, was found in a morass in the farm of Torrs, about the year 1820. Masquerades were a favourite amusement of the nobility in the middle ages, and this mask had probably belonged to a Mummer of the neighbouring castle of Thrieve. It was pre-

sented to Sir Walter Scott by Mr Train, and is now a conspicuous object in the museum at Abbotsford. 6. Mr Train has also in his possession two interesting pieces of furniture; the one an antique bedstead or buistie of the black Earl of Douglas, who was assassinated by his sovereign in the castle of Stirling; the other, a beautiful cabinet of elaborately carved oak, formed out of the different pieces of an ornamented chimney-piece, the cutting of which was the amusement of twenty tedious years spent by Mr J. Gordon, a member of the Earlston family, in the dungeon of Blackness, where he was confined on account of his religion. 7. The Carlinwark loch has yielded up many antiquities. This beautiful sheet of water appears to have been an object of wonderful interest in ancient times. It once contained two large islands; one near the north end, and the other near the south end of it. But great pains have evidently been taken to adorn it with artificial islands, as there are two small ones that the writer of the Old Statistical Account says, "have evidently been formed by strong piles of wood driven into the moss or marl, on which were placed large frames of black oak." These were discovered in the year 1765, when the loch was drained for the purpose of procuring marl. They had been immersed "fully six feet under water,"—a fact which seems to prove that the original extent of the loch was not much greater than its present, these six feet of water being fully accounted for by two dams which were then also discovered. These must have been erected for the purpose of deepening the lake by shutting its two outlets towards the Dee. This idea seems to be confirmed by a tradition which has always prevailed in the parish, that there was a town which sunk, or was drowned, in the loch—probably a few houses partially submerged, and rendered uninhabitable by the confinement of the waters. Tradition says also, that there were two churches or chapels, one upon each of the large islands. On an islet near the north end of the loch, there was found a large iron mallet, or hammer, stained on one end with blood-rust. It is now in the possession of the Antiquarian Society of Edinburgh, and is supposed to have been an instrument used by the ancient Druids in killing their sacrifices. The dams referred to above had been strong works; the one was discovered at the present outlet of the loch to the Dee, and was built of stone, moss, and clay; the other was found near the town of Castle Douglas, at a point where, in very high floods, the loch and the river still meet. This work consisted of oak wood and earth. At this



place, which is now covered by the great military road, the Roman army constructed a causeway through the marsh, which gave to Castle Douglas, in its infant days, the name of "Causeway-end," which towards the close of last century, was changed for "Carlin-wark." About this place many horse shoes were found sunk deep in the mud, of a form altogether different from those now in use. One of them is in the possession of Mr Train. It consists of one solid piece of iron, not made to go round the edge of the hoof, but to cover the whole foot. On the inside, especially towards the heel, it is hollowed so as not to press upon the soft part of the foot. No perforations for the nails are discoverable—they appear to be filled with rust. It somewhat resembles the balls or lumps of ice formed by horses feet in winter. Four such amorphous pieces of iron must have formed no small encumbrance to a horse; for although a good deal worn in front, this shoe still weighs about six pounds. In several parts of the loch canoes were found, exactly similar to those discovered in Merton-mere, Lochar moss, and the Carron. They appear to have been hollowed out of one tree, by the action of fire, after the manner of the American Indians. These are obviously Celtic remains of a very early date. Several very large stag heads, and a capacious brass pan were also found in the loch; and near its south-west corner a Roman dagger 22 inches long, and plated with gold, was fished up in a bag of marl. It is in the possession of Mrs Colonel Gordon of Greenlaw. By the withdrawing of the water, one of the two large islands—that to the north—was made a peninsula, but it still retains the name of "the Isle." On the south, or Fir Isle, the remains of an iron forge may still be seen; and it is said that Edward I. when he penetrated into Galloway in the year 1300, made use of this island as a place for shoeing his cavalry horses. Around this isle there has been a stone rampart, and a road led from it to the land on the north-east, which was formed of stones secured by strong piles of oak. Close to the side of the island, this road had a deep opening, in which large beams of wood, the remains of a draw-bridge, are still visible under the water. The road is now a marsh, having been destroyed by the action of the water; and here we have an additional confirmation of what is stated above respecting the original depth and extent of the loch; for with the six feet of water that were drained off in 1765, added to what the loch at present contains, the construction of these works would have been impracticable.

On the west side of the loch, between it and the public road, there is still pointed out a small piece of rising ground, as the Gallows Slote, or pit into which the victims of the cruelty or revenge of the Earls of Douglas were cast after being hanged on the gallows knob, a large block of granite projecting from the front wall of Thieve Castle, immediately over the main gateway. There is a difficulty, however, in accounting for this charnel being situated at the distance of more than a mile from the castle, while the carcasses could have been so much more readily disposed of in the neighbouring marshes, or in the river that flowed under the very walls. Some, therefore, regard this piece of ground as the *gallows slote*, on the top of which, it is said, stood a gibbet, upon which those unhappy persons who incurred the displeasure of the Douglasses were executed. Be this as it may, the fact is indisputable, that this piece of ground was used, if not as a place of execution, at least as a receptacle for the bodies of criminals; for the popular tradition to this effect was strikingly corroborated in the year 1800, when, in making the present highway, abundance of human bones were turned up in this spot. On this gallows, it is stated in the old Statistical Account, that Maclellan, tutor of Bombie, was executed by the command of Douglas, notwithstanding the King's letters demanding his release. This account, however, differs from that which is given by the best authors, as Pinkerton, Hume of Godscroft, Balfour, Buchanan, Hume, Scott, and Tytler, who all agree that Maclellan was beheaded in the court of Thieve Castle,—a grim and frowning stronghold that stands on an island surrounded by the Dee, about a mile from the high road, from which it is visible. The same writer states, that “The remains of Raeberry (Maclellan) lie buried in the church of Kirkcormock, as appears from the inscription upon a gravestone there.” But Crawford, in his Peerage, says, that “Sir Patrick Maclellan was interred in the abbey church of Dundrennan, under a monument of freestone.” This account is the more probable, as Dundrennan was the family burying-place of the Maclellans, and not far from their castle of Raeberry. The inscription upon the stone in the church of Kirkcormock is in old Runic characters, now hardly legible. Enough, however, has been made out to show, that it was erected to perpetuate the memory of a young man of the same name, who died upwards of eighty years after the murder of the tutor of Bombie. It is, “*Honorabilis Patricius Maclellan qui obit anno M.DXXXIV. anno xviii ætatis.*”

Raeberry was beheaded in 1451. The stone in question is easily accounted for, when it is stated that the clan of the Maclellans became so numerous and respectable, that fourteen knights of the name are said to have existed in Galloway at one time, and that the ruins of a castle which belonged to a branch of the family are still to be seen within three miles of Kirkcormock. The family are considered to have been of Irish origin, and were probably instrumental in erecting this church. Their castle appears to have been a place of considerable importance. The ruins are extensive, and some of the vaults are yet entire, and are used as sheds for cattle. It was situated on the farm of Auchlane, to which it has transmitted its own name. It was surrounded with a wide and deep ditch, which was supplied with water from the burn that now flows past the north side of the ruins.

There are several beautiful moats in the parish.

*Mons Meg.*—Although this parish is forced to relinquish the honour of having furnished Raeberry with a grave, it seems to have a good claim to the honour of having contributed the means of demolishing the castle of his murderer. When the act of forfeiture against the Douglasses was passed by the Scottish Parliament in the year 1455, the Castle of Thrieve was the last stronghold that held out for that powerful and rebellious family. King James II. resolved to conduct the siege of this place in person. He therefore marched into Galloway at the head of a numerous army, and took up a position at “the Three Thorns of the Carlinwark,”\* near the place where the town of Castle Douglas now stands. Among the multifarious assemblage who came from all parts of the country to witness the warlike operations, there was a blacksmith of the name of M'Kim, or M'Min, and his sons. Observing that the royal artillery produced little effect upon the thick and strong walls of Thrieve, old M'Kim remarked to one of the officers, that a larger cannon should be procured; and, after examining the way in which the guns had been manufactured, he offered, if furnished with the proper materials, to construct a more efficient piece of ordnance. The king gladly accepted his proposal; and the principal inhabitants of Kirkcudbright, to avenge the death of their superior, the tutor of Bombie, liberate the country from the tyranny of the Douglasses, and

\* One of these thorns still remains—a knotty, gnarled, fluted, hoary, and interesting relic of antiquity, which it is desirable that some means were employed to preserve from the decay that has long since preyed upon the other two.

evinced their loyalty to their sovereign, having contributed each a *gaud*, or bar, of iron, brawny M'Kim and his sons were set to work, and soon produced the famous cannon, known by the name of *Mons Meg*. The manufacture of this extraordinary piece of ordnance was carried on at Buchan's Croft, in the immediate vicinity of the three Thorns of the Carlinwark, where the king had encamped. It is composed of a number of separate bars held firmly together by strong hoops of iron, in the form of a cask. Its calibre is  $19\frac{1}{2}$  inches. With immense difficulty, this prodigious cannon, which weighs six tons and a-half, was dragged to a commanding position, since called *Knockcannon*, right in front of Thieve Castle. The charge, it is said, consisted of a peck of powder, and a granite ball, the weight of a Carsphairn cow. It was discharged with such effect that the first shot produced the greatest consternation among the inmates of the castle, and the second went through the thick walls and carried away the right hand of the countess, the celebrated Fair Maid of Galloway,—as she sat at table within the banqueting-hall, and was about to raise the wine-cup to her lips,—a circumstance regarded by the people in the country as a direct manifestation of the vengeance of Heaven, because that hand had been given in wedlock to two brothers, and that whilst the lawful spouse of one of them was still alive. The garrison immediately surrendered; and the grateful monarch presented to M'Kim the forfeited lands of Mollance, as a reward for the service he had rendered his country by constructing so noble an engine of war. According to the custom of Galloway, where persons are generally called by the names of the lands they possess, M'Kim soon came to be known by the soubriquet Mollance. The cannon was named after him, with the addition of Meg, in compliment to his wife, whose voice, it is said, rivalled that of her namesake. Thus the original name of the gun was *Mollance Meg*, which, in course of time, was contracted into *Mons Meg*. Drummond of Hawthornden is the first author who uses this contraction, "*sicuti Mons Megga crackasset*,"—which has led people unacquainted with the history of Galloway erroneously to suppose that this famous cannon was forged at Mons in Flanders. But no proof whatever has yet been adduced to that effect, whereas there is very conclusive evidence of its having been constructed in Galloway. The ball which made the cannon hole in the wall of Thieve Castle as well as those which are shewn in the Castle of Edinburgh, as pertaining to Mons

Meg, are of Galloway granite, to which there is none exactly similar in Scotland; and tradition says they were made on the summit of Bennan hill, while M'Kim and his sons were employed in constructing the cannon at the Buchan croft. Two of these balls only are said to have been discharged at the siege, and of both a satisfactory account can be given. The first,—that which shook the castle and spread dismay among the garrison, was, towards the end of last century, picked out of the wall and delivered to Mr Gordon of Greenlaw. And in the year 1841, when the tenant of the Isle of Thieve was removing, for the purpose of turnip-husbandry, a large accumulation of rubbish from the lower part of the castle, he came upon the draw-well, which was found to be lined with strong planks of black oak in a state of perfect preservation. Prosecuting the search which this discovery provoked, the labourers at length came to an immense round ball, which, on examination, was found to be a bullet in all respects the same as those belonging to Mons Meg, and still retaining evident marks of having been discharged from a cannon. It lay in the direct line from *Knock-cannon* to the breach in the wall; so that there is every reason to believe that this was the identical missile that shattered the stronghold and mutilated the lady of the tremendous Lord of Galloway. A massive gold ring, inscribed, "Margaret de Douglas," supposed to have been on the Fair Maid of Galloway's hand when it was blown away at the siege, was discovered by one of the workmen employed to clear out some rubbish, when Thieve Castle was partially repaired, in the beginning of the present century, as a barrack for French prisoners. The ring was handed to Sir Alexander Gordon, sheriff of the county. Symson says, that "the common report also goes in that country, that in the isle of the Thieve, the great iron gun in the Castle of Edinburgh, commonly called Mount Megg, was wrought and made,"—which statement, written nearly a hundred and sixty years ago, though obviously incorrect in assigning the Isle of Thieve as Meg's birth-place, goes far to prove her a native of Galloway. Finally, the uninterrupted tradition which has prevailed on this subject in the country, received a strong confirmation, when the labourers who were engaged in making the great military road at Carlinwark, at the very spot where Mons Meg is said to have been manufactured, came to a large mound, which turned out to be a mass of ashes or cinders, such as are generally left from a forge.

The unexampled popularity of Mons Meg may perhaps justify the following brief outline of her subsequent history and travels. From the following entry in the Treasurer's books, she appears to have been carried by James IV., July 10, 1489, to the siege of Dumbarton,—“Item, to the gunners to drink-silver when they carit Mons, by the King's command, 18s.” Mons, however, from her enormous size and weight, proved exceedingly unmanageable; and after having been brought back from Dumbarton to Edinburgh, she enjoyed an interval of eight years' inglorious repose. When James, however, in 1497, sat down before Northam, the great gun was, with infinite labour and expense, conveyed to the siege, and some of the items regarding her transport are amusing. The construction of a new cradle or carriage for her seems to have been a work of great labour. Thus on July 24, 1497, we have “Item, to pyanaris to bere ye trees to be Mon's new cradill to her at St Leonards, quhare scho lay, iiish. vid. ;” and again, July 28, “Item, for xiii stane of irne to mak graith to Monsis new cradill, and geolokkis to ga with her, xxxsh. iiid.” “Item, to vii wrightis for twa dayis and a half ya maid Monsis cradill, xxiiish. iiid.” “Item, for xyiii li of talloun (tallow) to Mons.” “Item, for viii elne of canvas to be Monsis claiths to cover her.” “Item, for mare talloun to Mons.” “Item, to Sir Thomas Galbraith for paynting Monsis claiths, 'xiiiish.” “Item, to the ministris that playit before Mons doune the gait, xiiiish.”

The next occasion of Meg's making a noise in the world, was in 1548, at the nuptials of Queen Mary and the Dauphin of France, when the following entry occurs,—“certain pyanaris for their labouris in raising Monss out of her lair, and for finding and carrying her bullet after she was shot frae Waldie Muir back to the castle of Edinburgh, a distance of two miles, 10s.” On the 19th December 1650, when the Castle of Edinburgh capitulated to the parliamentary troops, in the list of ordnance delivered by the governor to Colonel Moncke is specially mentioned “The great iron murderer, called Muckle Megg.”

In 1682, in firing a salute in honour of James, Duke of York, Meg unfortunately sustained some damage, in having part of the iron hoop next the touch-hole blown away. The disaster is thus referred to by Robert Fergusson :

“Oh Willawins ! Mons Meg for you,  
'Twas firing cracked thy muckle mou.”

To the great grief of the inhabitants of Edinburgh, this gigan-

tic piece of ordnance was, on the 19th April 1754, removed from Edinburgh Castle to Leith, on its way to the Tower of London. Her loss is thus again recorded by the same poet,—

“ Right seldom am I gi'en to bannin,  
But by my soul she was a cannon,  
Could hit a man had he been stannin  
In shire of Fife ;  
Sax lang Scots miles ayont Clackmannin,  
An' tack his life.”

When King George IV. visited Edinburgh Castle, on 22d August 1822, Sir Walter Scott pointed out to him the spot on the chief bastion of the old fortress, formerly occupied by Mons Meg, and earnestly requested that she might again be placed there, to which his Majesty readily assented. But through petty obstacles, stated by the official guardians of Meg, that object was not effected for nearly seven years afterwards.

“ On 9th March 1829, she was, however, brought in solemn procession, to re-occupy her ancient site on the Argyle battery, escorted by the 73d Regiment, a detachment of artillery-men, and two troops of dragoons, with thirty gentlemen, in full Highland costume, at the head of whom was Sir Walter Scott, accompanied by the greater part of the inhabitants of Edinburgh.\*

*Modern Buildings.*—The principal modern buildings in this parish are, Gelston Castle, built by the late Sir William Douglas, Bart., now the residence of his niece, Mrs Maitland ; the Carlinwark, built by the late Mr M'Culloch, and belonging at present to Mr David Hannay ; and Daldawn, built by the late proprietor, Captain M'Dougall. The St John's Lodge of Free Masons have a large hall in Castle Douglas.

There are three mills in this parish for grinding corn, and one bone-mill.

### III.—POPULATION.

Few parishes in Scotland exhibit so rapid an increase of population as Kelton. In the year 1755, it was only 811, and in 1791, it amounted to 1600.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
1801, -	926	979	1905
1811, -	1075	1188	2263
1821, -	1151	1265	2416
1831, -	1339	1538	2877
1841, -	1298	1577	2875

\* The above account of Mons Meg is taken from Tytler's History of Scotland. Incidental Notices of Thrieve Castle and Mons Meg, furnished by Mr Train for "the History of Galloway. J. Nicholson, Kirkcudbright, MDCCCXLI."

There are in the whole parish 636 families, being an average of about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  to each family.

Of the present population, there reside in the town of Castle Douglas,	-	1848
village of Rhonehouse,	-	235
Gelston,	-	147
country part of the parish,	-	645
Total,	-	<u>2875</u>

The population consists generally of bankers, writers, medical men, shop-keepers, cabinet-makers, masons, joiners, blacksmiths, painters, upholsterers, inn-keepers, tailors, shoemakers, weavers, and labourers. As nearly as can be ascertained, the yearly average of marriages is 20; of births, 65; and of deaths, 35.

The number of resident proprietors of the yearly value of L.50 and upwards, is 4. The number of blind persons is 2; of insane, 1; and of fatuous, 1.

*Language.*—Very good English is spoken by the people in general. The peculiarities noticed by Symson, of their omitting the letter *h* after *t*, as in pronouncing *ting* for *thing*; of their converting *v* into *w*, as, *servant* for *servant*, &c., no longer exist. The epithet *bask* is very generally applied to the dry withering easterly winds that sometimes prevail in spring. Although a few provincialisms, and a slight *patois* may occasionally be recognized, yet the language is decidedly improving, both in purity and correctness of pronunciation.

*Character and Habits of the People.*—The people are characterized by caution, shrewdness, and an inquisitive turn of mind. Though a good many lead an irreligious life, yet the inhabitants are generally distinguished for their industry, sobriety, and regard to the outward ordinances of religion. The peasantry are frugal, and cleanly in their habits; enjoy, in a reasonable degree, the comforts and advantages of society, and seem cheerful and contented with their condition and circumstances. Their ordinary food consists of oatmeal made into cakes and porridge, with milk for breakfast and supper, and a dinner of barley broth with beef or mutton and potatoes. They are simple in their tastes, civil to their superiors, and proverbial for their hospitality. Their favourite games are quoits and curling, in both of which they excel, standing at present in the proud position of conquerors in both games, of all the neighbouring parishes with which they are in the habit of playing an annual match. In winter, the Carlinwark Loch presents an ample field for the lovers of the latter national



and healthful amusement. These games, however, are not unattended with danger. In some places the lake is very deep, and the surface being constantly agitated in particular parts by currents of wind, and the hundreds of water-fowl that frequent its shores, there are generally some small spots left open after the rest is frozen over. These being covered by a single night's intense frost, as is sometimes the case, are apt to deceive the unwary. In this way a boy was drowned in the winter of 1839-40. Cards, backgammon, draughts, and chess are known, but not extensively practised in the parish. Poaching is not common, though one or two lawless young men have been several times incarcerated for violating the game laws. Smuggling is unknown.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

There are in the parish about 40 farmers, 43 cottars, and 45 farm-servants, living in their masters' houses. A considerable number of labourers, probably to the amount of 80, reside in Castle-Douglas, and the villages of Rhonehouse and Gelston, who, along with their families, and a part of the female population also, are generally employed in agriculture. Farm-servants receive as wages from L.10 to L.12 per annum; female servants, from L.5 to L.6; masons, 3s., and carpenters 2s. 6d. per day.

There are about 40 males employed in retail trade, and, including masters and workmen, 180 in handicraft. There are 3 bankers and 7 assistants, 10 writers, and 4 physicians and surgeons.

*Agriculture.*—This parish contains 2721 imperial acres annually under cultivation. About 1327 acres have never been subjected to the plough, and could not, by any profitable application of capital, be reclaimed. Cultivation, indeed, has nearly reached its limit. There are about 570 acres in plantation. The woods generally consist of the Scotch fir, larch, spruce, elm, ash, and oak. Most of the plantations are young, but take kindly to the soil, and grow rapidly. Great care is taken, by yearly thinning and pruning, to promote the growth of the trees.

This parish owes much to Sir William Douglas, for the pains he took to adorn with plantations the estate of Gelston; to the late proprietor, Mr Maitland, for improving upon the plans of his predecessor; to Colonel Maxwell, for his extensive plantations upon the farms of Potterland and Glen Yerroch, which entitle this part of the parish to the designation of *the Trosachs* of Galloway; and to James Barbour, Esq. of Dunmuir, for the tasteful manner in which he has beautified the estate of Keltonhill.

The valued rent of the parish is L.3598; its real rent is L.7972; but, as assessed for the poor, where house property is included, it is about L.11,000.

*Rent of Land.*—The average rent of arable land per acre is L. 1, 3s. The average rent of grazing is at the rate of L. 6 per cow; L. 2, 10s. per head for black-cattle; and L. 1 per ewe or full-grown sheep pastured for the year.

The lands are let on leases of fifteen and nineteen years duration. The farm-houses are all slated, comfortable, and commodious, generally containing, besides a kitchen and accommodation for servants, a dining-room, parlour, and two or more bed-rooms. The lands are all enclosed, either by substantial stone-dikes, or by thorn hedges, planted in a manner peculiar to Galloway. It is this:—A wall is built against a bank of earth, and when it has attained the height of the soil, a row of thorns is inserted, bent forwards, and covered with a little mould, when the building proceeds to the proper height. The thorns soon take root, creep up the face of the wall, and, by proper attention, combine with the dike to form a fence impervious to all kinds of cattle. Sometimes two rows of thorns are inserted, one at the base of the wall, and another at a small distance above. This hides altogether the deformity of the naked dike; and, whilst the thorns keep the stones in their proper places, the wall gives a stability to the hedge which bids defiance to the most violent storms. This mode of fencing is said to have been introduced by the late Lord Daer, with the view of turning the Galloway cattle, which are sure to trespass upon every field into which they are able to poke their heads,—and it fully answered the purpose. The hedges are carefully scutched, and give a great appearance of neatness to the country. It is little more than a century since lands began to be enclosed in Galloway. In a letter to W. M. Herries, Esq. of Spottes, dated February 1811, and published in the Appendix to the Report of the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright Agricultural Society for the year 1810, the late John Maxwell, Esq. of Munshes, gives the following somewhat ludicrous account of the famous rising of the Levellers, occasioned by the proprietors enclosing their grounds. “That same year (1723, for this fine old old gentleman was born in 1720,) many of the proprietors inclosed their grounds to stock them with black-cattle, and by that means turned out a vast number of the tenants, at the term of Whitsunday 1723, whereby numbers of

them became destitute ; and, in consequence, rose in a mob ; when, with pitchforks, gavellocks, and spades, they levelled the park dikes of Barncaillie and Munches, which I saw with my own eyes. The mob passed by Dalbeaty and Buittle, and did the same on the estates of Netherlaw, Dunrod, &c. and the lands of the Laird of Murdoch, then proprietor of Kilwhanedy, who turned out sixteen families at that time. The proprietors rose, with their servants and dependants, to quell this mob ; but were not of sufficient force to do it, and were obliged to send for two troops of dragoons from Edinburgh, who, upon their appearing, the mob dispersed." Before the arrival of the military, however, the Levellers had very effectually done their work, the only dike that was left standing in the Stewartry being one on the right hand side of the old road from Castle-Douglas to Kirkcudbright, upon the estate of Kelton. The proprietor used more effectual weapons to preserve his fence than the swords of the dragoons. Having awaited the arrival of the Levellers, he accosted them courteously, and invited them, before commencing their labours, to refresh themselves from a good cask of spirits, and another of ale, which he had prepared for them. They drank his ale, and spared his dike.

The present race of farmers are an intelligent and enterprising class of men. Their farms are skilfully managed, all the most approved modes of agriculture and improving stock being in general use ; but a great obstacle to their improvements is the difficulty of procuring lime, which must be shipped from the opposite coast of England. Bone manure is much used in turnip husbandry ; and draining, both with tiles and stones, is practised to a considerable extent, and with the greatest success.

A great impulse was given to agriculture by the discovery of the beds of marl in the Carlinwark Loch, about the year 1765. Crops of the greatest luxuriance were produced by the use of this calcareous manure, and it soon came to be eagerly sought after, and extensively applied. Ignorant, however, of its tendency to exhaust as well as stimulate the soil, the farmers injured their lands by cropping them for many seasons in succession ; and this natural effect of an injudicious and excessive use of the marl was referred to the manure itself, and for many years it has ceased to be applied. The common rotation is now a white and a green crop alternately, till the fifth year, when the lands are laid down in grass.

Nothing can be more striking than the contrast between the present system of agriculture, and that described by Symson, who

tells us, that, "in several parts of the Stewartrie, they till with four horses, all abreast, and bound together to a small tree before, which a boy or sometimes a woman leads, going backward. In the meantime another stronger man hath a strong stick, about four feet long, with an iron hook at the lowest end thereof, with which, being put into another iron fastened to the end of the plough-beam, and leaning upon the upper end of the stick, and guiding it with his hands, he holds the plough-beame up or down, according as he finds the ground deep or shallow." From this miserable and expensive mode of tillage the usual return was four or five for one; and the grain was of the most execrable description, as we learn from the same source, for, he continues, "before they carry the corne to the mill, after it is dry'd in the kiln, they lay it upon the kiln-flour, in a circular bed, about a foot thick; then, being bare-foot, they go among it, rubbing it with their feet, (this they call lomeing of the corne,) and by this meanes the long beards, or awnds, are separated from the corne, and the corn made, as they term it, more *snod*, and easy to pass through the mill, when they are shelling of the corne there." And, after all their lomeing, he adds, "Although their measure be heaped, and the weakest and worst of their oates, which they reserve for their horses and seed, be winnowed and drawn out, yet three bolls of corne will not yield much more than one boll of good and sufficient meal, straked measure." But now the ploughman of Galloway, with his improved implements, and single team of strong and handsome horses, will stand a comparison, in point of appearance and dexterity, with any of his class in the country. The crops, too, are remarkably good; ten for one is not looked upon as an extraordinary return; and for every bushel of oats sent to the mill, the farmer expects at least a stone and a half of meal. It is pleasant to add, that their personal comfort has improved in the same ratio. No peasant would now be proud of what satisfied the proprietor a century ago, when, as Mr Maxwell, in the letter already referred to, tells us, "The tenants, in general, lived very meanly on kail, groats, milk, graddon ground in querns, turned by the hand, and the grain dried in a pot, together with a crock ewe now and then about Martinmas. They were clothed very plainly, and their habitations were most uncomfortable. Their general wear was of cloth, made of waulked plaiding, black and white wool, mixed very coarse, and the cloth rarely dyed. Their hose were made of white plaiding cloth, sewed together, with single-soled shoes, and a black or

blue bonnet, none having hats but the lairds,—who thought themselves very well dressed for going to church on Sunday with a black kelt-coat of their wife's making."

*Produce.*—The gross amount of raw produce annually raised in the parish, as nearly as can be ascertained, is as follows, viz.

1543 acres of corn, yielding 36 bushels per acre, at 2s. 6d. per bushel,	L.6943	10	0
268 acres of potatoes, yielding 18 bolls per acre, at 12s. per boll,	2894	8	0
327 acres of turnips, yielding 12 tons per acre, at 8s. per ton,	1569	12	0
563 acres of ryegrass hay, yielding 240 Imp. stones per acre, at 3d. per stone,	1749	0	0
444 acres of natural hay, yielding 200 Imp. stones per acre, at 2d. per stone,	740	0	0
430 cows, grazed at the rate of L.6 per head, per annum,	2580	0	0
969 bullocks, grazed at the rate of L.2, 10s. per head, per annum,	2422	10	0
1327 sheep, pastured at the rate of L.1 per head, per annum,	1327	0	0
650 pigs, each weighing 12 stones, at 5s. 6d. per stone,	2145	0	0
20 horses annually brought to the market, at the average price of L.20,	400	0	0

Total yearly value of raw produce raised, . . . L.22,771 0 0

This table, which has been prepared with very great care, furnishes as nearly as possible an exact account of the stock and crops for the year 1841,—and may be regarded as a fair average of the amount of raw produce annually raised in the parish of Kelton. There are 270 horses in the parish.

*Agricultural Society.*—There is a district society, comprehending Kelton and the five surrounding parishes, whose object is to promote the improvement of agriculture and stock of all kinds. Each member pays an annual subscription of half a guinea. Out of the funds thus realized handsome premiums are awarded to the best ploughmen, and to the owners of the best stock in the district. The ploughing-matches are held in each of the six parishes alternately; the show of stock takes place in Castle Douglas on the first Tuesday in October. The influence of this society, aided by the countenance and support of the Highland Society of Scotland, is very considerable in promoting the object of its institution.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Town.*—The market-town is Castle Douglas. This town, being situated near the centre of the county, is the great mart for the produce of the stewartry. A weekly market, at which an astonishing amount of business is transacted, is held every Monday for the sale of black cattle, sheep, pork, and all kinds of agricultural produce. The extraordinary rapidity with which Castle Douglas has sprung into commercial importance is sufficient to account for the great increase of the population of this parish during the last half century; whilst the circumstance of its

not having gone on in the same ratio, but having actually decreased since 1831, is accounted for by the failure of a cotton manufactory formerly carried on in Castle Douglas. This work was established by Sir William Douglas, as a means of increasing the town, of which he was the superior, and may almost be said to have been the founder. The introduction of the power-loom, however, rendered it impossible to carry on with advantage such a trade in places like Castle Douglas, where there is neither coal nor a sufficient power of water, and it has consequently been abandoned. The town has nevertheless thriven beyond the expectation of its patron. Men are yet living who remember the time when *Causeway-end* was only a small cluster of cottages, the population of which did not amount to more than twenty. Now, Castle Douglas is a handsome modern town, built upon a regular plan, containing a population of 1848. It is situate upon a gentle declivity, at the bottom of which is the Carlinwark Loch. The streets are wide and spacious, crossing one another at right angles. The town is thus divided into rectangles, the internal space in each division being laid out in gardens, one of which is attached to every feu. This town, the suddenness of whose rise rivals the rapid growth of towns in America, has already attained an importance that, in most cases, is the growth of ages. In an agricultural point of view, it far surpasses any other town in Galloway; and, with the exception of Dumfries, it is second to none in the south of Scotland. It possesses many natural advantages. It is situated in the centre of the county, and the great road from Dumfries to Kirkcudbright and Portpatrick passes through the heart of it. At the instance of Sir William Douglas, it was erected into a burgh of barony under its present title, by royal charter in 1792. Till then it had been called Carlinwark, and in remoter times, *Causeway-end*. By the charter of erection, the burgh was governed by a bailie and six councillors, who were chosen from among the resident burgesses, and continued in office three years. A new and extended charter was obtained in 1829, by which the burgesses were invested with the privilege of electing triennially, on the first Wednesday of September, a provost, two bailies, and seven councillors—the qualification being residence within the burgh, and a right by feu to a piece of ground within the same. The property of the burgh amounts to L.550; the debts to L.150. The average annual revenue is L.20; the expenditure L.15. Justice of peace small debt courts are held

on the first Monday of every month. The steward circuit courts, under the late Small Debt Act, are held on the second Wednesdays of January and April, and the first Wednesdays of July and October. There is a modern town-house, with a tower and clock, which were presented to the burgh by Sir W. Douglas. The shops are remarkably elegant and well furnished, so as to awaken the surprise of strangers, who are not aware of the fact that Castle Douglas is the great mart, not only of the parish of Kelton, but of the whole stewartry.

*Banks.*—Three of the most respectable banks in Scotland have branches in Castle Douglas; the British Linen Company, established in 1821; the National Bank, established in 1826; and the Bank of Scotland, established in 1840. All the three institutions do business to a considerable extent, and afford great encouragement to industry and commerce.

*Post-Office.*—The post-office of Castle Douglas is perhaps one of the most important in the south of Scotland, whether we consider the consequence of the town itself, or the extent of country, and number of villages around it, and subject to its delivery. There are no less than fourteen post-offices under Castle Douglas, viz. sub-office, New Galloway; penny post-offices, Auchencairn, Kirkpatrick, Dalry, Laurieston, Crocketford, Dalbeattie, Palnackie, Parton, Rhonehouse; receiving-houses, Gelston, Crossmichael, Haugh of Urr, and Glenlochar,—to all of which places there are daily runners. Castle Douglas, in regard to the number of its sub-offices, &c. is second to Glasgow alone throughout Scotland. The revenue, prior to the establishment of the penny postage, exceeded L.1100; but what it yields now cannot be exactly ascertained from the stamps being sold both at the post and stamp-offices.

*Means of Communication.*—1. The mail from Dumfries bringing dispatches from all England and Scotland, arrives at Castle Douglas daily at 10 o'clock P. M. Another mail from Portpatrick with the Irish letters, arrives at 3 o'clock A. M. 2. There are also two coaches every lawful day to and from Dumfries and Kirkcudbright, one of which brings a second mail from England and the whole of Scotland except Edinburgh and its neighbourhood, at one o'clock P. M. 3. Carriers go twice a week to Dumfries, once to Edinburgh, once to Glasgow, and thrice to Kirkcudbright and Gatehouse.

*Roads.*—The great military road from London to Portpatrick

passes through the north part of the parish for nearly four miles. The road from Castle Douglas to Palnackie, a sea-port on the mouth of the river Urr, from which coal, wood, slate, lime, bone manure, &c. are brought, passes along the east border of the parish for five miles. The old road from Dumfries to Kirkcudbright by Castle Douglas and Rhonehouse, and another by Dalbeattie, pass through Kelton, the former from north to south about five miles, the latter from north-east to south-west about three and a half miles. There are also two other roads which intersect the parish; one from Castle Douglas through Rhonehouse, and the very centre of the parish to Greenlane, on the line from Dumfries to Kirkcudbright by Dalbeattie, and another from Castle Douglas by Kelton Kirk to the village of Auchencairn in the parish of Rerwick. All these roads are kept in excellent repair, the metal of the parish, whether the hard primary schistus, or the porphyry, being admirably adapted for road making. The roads are Macadamized, and a little elevated in the centre; and the water-tables being kept clean, the rain speedily runs off, or is absorbed by the porous soil.

*Bridges.*—A very handsome bridge, consisting of three arches, was built across the river Dee in the year 1825. It is composed of granite, and unites the parishes of Kelton and Balmaghie. Below it about 200 yards, stands the old bridge consisting of four arches, from its venerable appearance, and still more from its narrow path-way, presenting a striking contrast to its modern neighbour.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—Kelton is composed of the three united parishes of Kelton, Gelston, and Kirkcormack. At each of the two last mentioned places, there exist the remains of a church, with its adjoining cemetery, which is still occasionally used by the families in the neighbourhood, and the descendants of those whose ashes are there deposited. There is also on the south-east boundary of the parish the vestige of an ancient chapel and church-yard, called Kirkmirren, now entirely neglected, and of which nothing is known but the locality and the name. In ancient times, it probably formed a distinct parish, though it is said to have been designed for a chapel of ease. The local situation of Gelston countenances the opinion of those who refer the name to *gill* or *gell*, a ravine through which runs a brook, and the common affix *tun*, but its ancient name appears to have been Galston, Gaulston, or, as in the grant of land to James Boyd by David II.



"Gaulistown," which lands John Gauliston had forfeited. Kirkcormack, anciently called Kilcormac, derived its name from the Irish saint, Cormac, to whom it was dedicated. This dedication was, no doubt, made during the ninth century, after the Irish emigrants began to find repose in Galloway. Symson says, that "Kirkcormack is only a chapel, and not, as it would seem, a complete parish, though ordinarily so called." He probably means Kirkmirren, for Kirkcormack appears from ancient records, to have had all the attributes of a complete parish. It is beautifully situated in a retired spot, on the bank of the river Dee, and seems to have been the burying-place of the Maclellans of Auchlane, a branch of the noble family of Kirkcudbright. In ancient times all these churches belonged to the monks of Icolmkill. When their establishment became ruined by the successive devastations of the northmen, Kelton, and, indeed, all the churches in Galloway, which belonged to these monks, were granted between the years 1172 and 1180, by William the Lion, to the monastery of Holyrood. This establishment also being dissolved by the Reformation, Charles I. in 1633, granted to the newly erected bishoprick of Edinburgh, along with many others which had belonged to the monastery of Holyrood, the churches of Kelton and Kirkcormack. On the abolition of Episcopacy in 1689, the patronages of these churches reverted to the Crown. Gelston belonged of old to the prior and canons of Whithern. After the Reformation, it was, by the general annexation act of 1587, vested in the King, who granted the whole property of Whithern priory, including the church of Gelston, to the Bishop of Galloway in 1606. When Episcopacy was finally abolished in 1689, the patronage of this church also reverted to the crown, which is still sole patron of the united parishes of Kelton, Gelston, and Kirkcormack. The precise date of the union of these parishes cannot now be ascertained. It probably took place soon after the Reformation; at least the churches of Gelston and Kirkcormack were both in ruins when Symson wrote his description of Galloway in 1684.

Castle Douglas, alternately with the county town, is the seat of the Presbytery of Kirkcudbright. The parish church is situated on the east side of Kelton hill, at nearly equal distances from Castle Douglas, Rhonehouse, and Gelston. Its distance from the extremities of the parish is about five miles. But although the situation of the church, considering the state of the parish when it was built, was well chosen; yet its distance of a mile and a

quarter from Castle Douglas, where so large a proportion as two-thirds of the whole population reside, is a source of great inconvenience. The present church was built in the year 1805-6, when it was removed from a low situation in the middle of the church-yard, to its present elevated, dry, and convenient site. It is a plain, substantial building, of a rectangular form, 68 feet long and 42 feet broad within the walls, and has a belfry on the west gable. Any small repairs that had become necessary were adhibited in the year 1840, and it is at present in very good order. It was originally seated for about 740. No distinct provision, however, was made for the accommodation of the feuars of Castle Douglas, Rhonehouse, and Gelston; and as the sittings which they were able to procure in the parts allocated to the heritors, and not occupied by themselves or their tenants, were found to be quite inadequate, in the year 1821, a gallery capable of accommodating 130 sitters was erected by subscription, in the east end of the church. The sittings were exposed to auction, and were taken with such avidity as led to the erection of a corresponding gallery in the west end of the church in the year 1822. The sittings in this gallery also were immediately taken, and at such prices as in a few years paid off the whole expenses incurred in these erections, with interest upon the money subscribed, when the shareholders agreed to devote the annual sum arising from this source to the promotion of the interests of education in the parish. It has been accordingly since divided among the three parochial teachers in the following proportions, one-half to the teacher in Castle Douglas, and one-fourth to each of the schoolmasters in Rhonehouse and Gelston. The church is thus capable of accommodating easily 1000 sitters. The two areas, however, having no fixed seats but moveable forms, are used only at the dispensation of the Lord's supper. They accommodate from 60 to 70 communicants. None of the sittings are absolutely free, except the forms in the area, which, being very uncomfortable, are seldom used. But several pews belong to the kirk-session, in which the sittings are let at very low prices, as 1s. and 1s. 6d. each. Any person who is unable to pay this small rent, is, on applying to the session, accommodated with a free sitting. About ten sittings are occupied in this way. It would obviously be very desirable that a new church should be built in Castle Douglas, and that burgh erected into a separate parish. This new parish would contain upwards of 1800, and leave in the old parish about 1000 souls.

The manse and offices were built in the year 1813-14. No extensive repairs have yet been required; but such as had become necessary were executed in the end of the year 1840. It is a substantial and comfortable house, containing the usual accommodation. The glebe consists of 17 imperial acres, exclusive of the garden and site of the manse and offices. The land is of good quality, and might be let for nearly L.2 per acre. The present stipend is 17 chalders, half meal and half barley, with L.10 for communion elements.

The Reformed Presbyterians have a meeting-house in Castle Douglas. The minister's stipend is L.90, and is raised from the seat rents and collections. The Relief body of Dissenters have also a meeting-house in the immediate neighbourhood of Castle Douglas, but within the parish of Crossmichael. The minister's stipend is nominally L.60, and is raised from the same sources. Neither of the clergymen has any manse.\*

The parish church is generally well attended, although an unfavourable day, owing to the distance of the church from Castle Douglas, where the great bulk of the people reside, very seriously affects the attendance. All the seats in the area which are not required by the heritors and tenants are let, as are also the whole of the seats in the galleries.

The following is a correct abstract of the population and religious denominations, with the number of individuals belonging to each in the parish of Kelton, as taken from a survey in the year 1840:—Belonging to the Established Church, 2117; other denominations, 455; not connected with any denomination, *i. e.* not in communion, nor in the habit of attending any place of worship, 318;—total, 2890. Of the 455 Dissenters, there belong to the Reformed Presbyterians, 160; Relief, 112; United Associate Synod, 35; Roman Catholics, 148;—total, 455.

Neither the United Secession Dissenters, nor the Roman Catholics have any place of worship in the parish. The former attend Divine service at the Haugh of Urr, about four miles, and the latter at Dalbeattie, about five miles from Castle Douglas.

Of the 318 who are not in the habit of attending any place of worship, almost all *profess* to belong to the Established Church, and some of them *do* occasionally attend. The Dissenting places

\* Since the above was written "the Free Church" has sprung into existence. From the recent date of its origin, the number of its adherents cannot be exactly ascertained. In this parish they are inconsiderable, but combining with those in Parton, Crossmichael, and Kittle, they have called a minister, and built a chapel in Castle Douglas.

of worship are but thinly attended, though some adherents of the Established Church attend in the Sabbath evenings, and also in the forenoons, when the weather is inclement.

Besides the ordinary collections for the poor, the average amount of church collections yearly for religious and charitable purposes is about L.12.

*Education.*—There are six schools at present in the parish, three of which are parochial,—one in Castle Douglas, one in Rhonehouse, which is the original parish school, and one in Gelston. The other three are unendowed, and on the teachers' own adventure. All the unendowed schools are conducted by females. Two of them may almost be reckoned infant schools. In the third, besides all the ordinary branches of education, sewing, drawing, music, and French are taught.

The parochial schoolmaster of Rhonehouse alone has a dwelling-house; but all the three school-houses are large, well-aired, and convenient.

The branches of education generally taught in the parish schools are, reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, mathematics, Latin, Greek, French, and Italian. The fixed salary paid by the heritors is L.51, 6s., which is equally divided among the three schoolmasters. The teacher in Castle Douglas receives also about L.7, 10s. from a sum of money mortified by Sir William Douglas, and about L.15 as his share of the seat-rents in the church galleries. The other two teachers receive from the same sources about L.3 and L.7, 10s. each. The average amount of school-fees in Castle Douglas is L.120, and in each of the other schools about L.32 per annum.

The people are, in general, very much alive to the benefits of education. No part of the parish is so distant from one or other of the schools as to prevent attendance. The magistrates of Castle Douglas have the privilege of sending sixteen poor children to school, on the Douglas mortification; and the trustees and shareholders in the church galleries exercise the same privilege in regard to the other schools. Education is thus brought within reach of the poorest inhabitant; and there is hardly an individual, a native of the parish, of suitable age, who cannot read and write. The proportion of scholars to the whole population is a little less than one to five. Perhaps it might be of advantage to have a second school endowed in Castle Douglas to act as a nursery to the present one, which is rather overcrowded.

*Literature.*—There is an excellent subscription library in Castle

Douglas, consisting of nearly 1200 well selected and valuable volumes. Subscribers have alone the privilege of reading. The terms of admission are L.3, 3s., and an annual subscription of half-a-guinea. There are also a circulating library, and a juvenile library for the use of the children attending the Sabbath school.

*Charitable and other Institutions.*—There are two poor houses in the parish, the one erected and the other rented by the heritors and kirk-session. In these, about thirty poor persons, some of whom have families, are lodged, and receive the usual allowance of out-door paupers to spend as they please. A matron is appointed to take charge of the helpless, and orphan, or deserted children. She has free apartments assigned her, and receives, per month, for taking charge of an orphan child, from 5s. to 7s. 6d.; and for a paralytic or disabled person, from 10s. to 18s. per month, according to the nature of the case. This plan is attended with less expense, and a greater amount of comfort to the poor, than the system of paying for a separate lodging for each.

*Savings Bank.*—The Savings Bank of Castle Douglas was opened for public business on 24th December 1840, and on 20th November 1841, there were in 25 accounts, balances to the amount of . . . . . L.196 0 0

On 20th November 1842, 104 Accounts, . 668 11 10  
 „ 20th November 1843, 220 Accounts, . 1638 0 8  
 and on 4th January 1844, . 241 Accounts, . 2022 17 10

As the institution is yet in its infancy, little can be said regarding its ultimate success. Hitherto that has been as great as could reasonably be expected; and from the subjoined statement of accounts and classification of depositors, it appears that a considerable number of individuals in those classes whose benefit it chiefly contemplates, take advantage of the institution.

Statement of Accounts as at 4th January 1844.		
Accounts containing balances.		
61	under L.2	L.39 12 9
55	5	168 3 7
54	10	379 5 4
37	20	455 14 7
18	30	442 12 6
13	50	420 1 1
1	100	91 19 1
2	Charitable Societies	81 8 11

Classification of Depositors as at 4th January 1844.		
No. of Accts.	Classification of	Amt. at Cr. of each Class.
37	Male servants,	L.261 3 6
76	Female servants,	518 17 8
7	Mechanics,	88 2 5
7	Labourers,	39 2 8
51	Trustees for minors, &c.,	276 4 5
2	Charitable societies,	81 8 11
4	Shopmen,	48 15 2
57	Other descriptions,	759 3 1

241 Accts. containing L. 2022 17 10

241 Accts. containing L. 2022 17 10

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid is 55. The sums allowed to them vary from 9d. to 5s. per week, the average allowance being 1s. 8d. The annual amount of contributions for the relief of the poor is about L.330. This sum is raised by a legal assessment, amounting to L.300, and the half of the ordinary collections at the parish church, amounting to L.30, the other half being retained by the session to meet the current expenses, and relieve the occasional poor. There is also the interest of L.100, given by Miss Harriet Douglas, now Mrs Congar, of New York, one of the heirs of Sir William Douglas, which is expended in the purchase of coals, and distributed, in equal proportions, among the poor in Castle Douglas, Rhonehouse, and Gelston. The legal assessment was imposed in 1837–38. It began at the rate of 5d. per pound upon the real value of property in the parish. It steadily increased at the rate of 1d. per pound each year, until it reached 8d. per pound. The rate is imposed upon all tangible property above the value of L.3 per annum. The landlords pay the one-half, and the tenants the other half. The system is managed at an expense of L.25 yearly, including L.15 as the clerk's salary, the remainder being expended in paying the persons appointed to value the different properties, and in providing the necessary accommodation for the permanent committee of management, which meets once a-month.

Besides the regular poor, a good many persons require occasional aid. These are relieved by the kirk-session, out of the half of the ordinary collections, which the law allows them to retain. There is no disposition among the poor to refrain from seeking parochial relief, but, on the contrary, there is the most mortifying eagerness to get upon the roll. They look upon it as their natural and legal right, and receive, without gratitude, the pittance that is given without charity. This deplorable effect, the destruction of the proper feelings that ought to exist between the givers and receivers of charity, seems to be inseparable from the system, and is one of the strongest objections to its adoption. In some few cases, it is to be feared that the poor refrain from making the exertions to maintain themselves, of which they are capable; or, having an opportunity of earning a livelihood, as most of them have at certain seasons of the year, they still apply for the benefit of the public fund; and there is seldom any appa-

rent reluctance in children to allow their aged parents and relations to come upon the parish.

There is not much private charity now exercised in the parish, as it is thought inconsistent with a main object of so large an annual expenditure upon the poor, the suppression of vagrancy and public begging. Many families, however, are still favoured with a weekly visit from the poor persons whom they were in the habit of serving before the introduction of the poor rate; and the collections at the church have not been sensibly diminished.

*Fairs.*—There are seven fairs held in the parish in the course of the year, viz. at Castle Douglas, for the sale of horses, on the 11th February if it happen to be a Monday, if not, on the Monday following; at Castle Douglas, for horses and hiring, on the 23d March, or Monday after; at Castle Douglas, for the sale of hoggets, on the first Monday of April; at Keltonhill, for horses and hiring, on the 17th June, O. S.; at Castle Douglas, for lambs, on the Monday before the fair of Minniehive, which is held on the second Friday of August; at Castle Douglas, for horses and hiring, on the 23d September or Monday after; and at Castle Douglas for horses, on the Monday after the 13th November, O. S.

Formerly all these fairs were held at Kelton hill; but, with the exception of that in June, they have been transferred to Castle Douglas, the multiplication of places of entertainment, and, especially, the convenience of the banks, having rendered the change advisable, and even necessary.

*Inns, Alehouses, &c.*—There are twenty-three inns and alehouses in the parish, besides two grocers' shops, licensed to retail ardent spirits,—a number greatly exceeding the wants of the population. Several such houses have been closed within the last three years, and it is greatly to be desired that their number were still farther reduced. Of this, however, there appears a great probability, as the use of ardent spirits has been considerably diminished, since public attention began to be directed to the cause of temperance, and several of these houses are understood to be doing very little business, and very little harm. Upon the whole, they do less injury to the morals of the people than, at first sight, is apt to be supposed; for a considerable number of them are places of entertainment for farmers and dealers attending the fairs and markets, and are very little frequented except on these occasions.

*Fuel.*—Coal is the fuel commonly used in the parish. It is

KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

M

brought from Cumberland to the ports of Palnackie and Tongland Bridge. At certain seasons, when their servants and horses are not necessarily engaged in agricultural operations, the farmers send for coal to Dalmellington, in Ayrshire, a distance of thirty-six miles from Castle Douglas. Here it costs less than the same weight of English coal; but it is also much less durable; and, taking into account the long land carriage, in reality no cheaper. The common cart-load of shipped coal, containing 8 bushels, or 12 cwt., costs about 9s., besides cartage, which is 2s. 6d. more. Peat is found in the parish, but it is not very extensively used as fuel.

*Written January 1841.*

*Revised January 1844.*

## PARISH OF BALMAGHIE.

PRESBYTERY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT, SYNOD OF GALLOWAY.

THE REV. ALEX. GIBSON, MINISTER.

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

THE name of this parish has been adopted from that of the principal estate which it contains. An Irish chief named M'Ghie settled here in early times, and the property he acquired was long retained by his descendants. Hence the name of the family estate and also of the parish. The Gaelic prefix Bal signifies a dwelling.

*Boundaries, &c.*—The parish lies about the middle of the stewardry of Kirkcudbright, and is of irregular figure. To the eastward it is separated from the parishes of Kelton, Crossmichael, and Parton, by the river Dee; to the northward, from Kells, by the Black water of Dee; on the west, it is bounded by the parish of Girthon; and on the south, by those of Twynholm and Tongland. The greatest length, from south-east to north-west, is about nine miles, and the greatest breadth from east to west, about seven.

*Topographical Appearances.*—To the south-east the surface of the parish is in general level, but in all other directions it is hilly, though not mountainous. The higher parts of the parish command a very extensive view, including, among other objects, the Cars-



phairn and Minnigaff hills to the north and west, those of Cumberland to the south-east, and also, in clear weather, the Isle of Man.

In the valley of the Dee the soil is kindly and fertile, and in a few places deep. Immediately adjoining the river, there are some extensive meadows, the advantage of which is felt by the farmer in the supply of much excellent keep for his dairy stock during the winter months. These meadows, in connection with the remarkable stillness of the river, which expands in many places to a great width, impart a peculiarly peaceful air to the landscape in this part of the parish.

*Hydrography.*—At Lochinbreck, on the estate of Woodhall, the property of William Kennedy Laurie, Esq., there is a mineral spring possessing considerable medicinal virtue, and which has in consequence been resorted to from time immemorial. The mineral ingredients which enter into its composition are sulphate of iron and carbonic acid. The water is transparent; a powerful tonic and diuretic, and not unpleasant to the taste. In complaints of the stomach, and disorders arising from obstruction or debility, it has often proved a very efficacious restorative. Patients afflicted with aguish complaints have generally derived much benefit from it; and even in obstinate intermittents, when bark and other medicines have failed, it has frequently been instrumental in effecting perfect cures. For the accommodation of visitors and invalids, an inn has been provided in the vicinity of the well; but there is reason to believe, that, were the accommodation more extensive, the resort to it would be still greater than it is.

There are five considerable lochs in the parish. Grannoch or Woodhall Loch is the largest, and is about two and a-half miles long, and at some places half a mile broad. In all of them, with the exception of Lochinbreck, pike and perch are to be found in considerable numbers, and on this account the trout are few. Lochinbreck, however, contains neither pike nor perch, but abounds in trout; and hence its name, which signifies the *lake of trouts*.

In general these lakes are situated in the upland districts of the parish, and their shores are for the most part unclad with wood. Even in these circumstances, however, they please the eye by the variety and freshness they impart to the landscape; but Woodhall Loch, which is situated at the bottom of a steep bank, covered in various places by trees, possesses much beauty.

The Blackwater of Dee, taking its rise in the parish of Minni-

gaff, runs along the northern side of the parish. Flowing to the eastward, it meets the Ken at right angles, and the united stream thereafter takes the name of the Dee. This river flows to the south, forming the eastern boundary of Balmaghie, and, passing between the parish of Kelton on the east, and that of Tongland on the west, it expands into an estuary below Kirkcudbright. It is proper to remark, that, in its progress along the parish, the Dee has for the most part the aspect of a lake. In some places it is very deep, and its greatest breadth may be nearly a quarter of a mile. From the nature of the soil through which it flows, its waters are of a particularly dark colour.

The fish which frequent the Dee are, trout, sea trout, salmon, parr, pike, and perch. Trout do not abound, but of the few which are to be met with, most are of the red or better sort. During the season, the means employed by the tacksman of the fishery at Tongland for taking the salmon are so effectual, that few or none find their way to this portion of the river, with the exception of such as pass during high floods, and in the interval between Saturday and Monday, when the law requires the obstructions to be removed. The fishery opens at the beginning of February, and closes in September; after this the salmon ascend the river to spawn, and, in the spring months, retreat towards the sea. Here, as elsewhere, numbers are annually destroyed in close time by the illegal means usually resorted to for such a purpose.

In the upper district granite abounds, but in the other parts of the parish the prevailing rock is greywacke or whinstone. No limestone is to be found; and all that is used for building and agricultural purposes is brought from the shores of Cumberland.

*Zoology.*—Considerable numbers of waterfowl frequent the streams and lakes. In winter, wild ducks of various kinds, geese, and, in hard seasons, flocks of swans are to be seen on the wing and in the waters.

In the part of the Dee bounding this parish, a shell-fish is found which often contains a pearl. This fresh-water mussel has lately been pronounced by a scientific gentleman to be a very scarce variety of the *Unio Roissyi* of Michaud. The pearls have various hues and considerable beauty.

*Wood.*—Plantations thrive remarkably well, and were they of more frequent occurrence, they would tend to increase the beauty and promote the improvement of the district. In those of younger growth, larch forms the staple; but in various parts of the parish,

oaks have been planted in considerable numbers, and are found to thrive well.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

The most remarkable antiquity which the parish contains is that of the Castle of Threave, which is still standing. It is situated upon an island, several acres in extent, formed by the river Dee. The walls are very thick and strong, and bear the marks of great antiquity. It was formerly the residence of the Douglasses, and is said to have been built by one of that family upon the site of a more ancient castle, which belonged to the ancient lords or petty kings of Galloway. The remains consist of a great square tower, which has been surrounded at a small distance by a wall with three round towers. Part of the wall, with one of the towers, is still standing, and the ruins of the other two may be seen lying upon the ground. Upon the fall of the house of Douglas, and the annexation of Galloway to the Crown of Scotland in 1455, this castle came into the hands of the King; but it was afterwards transferred to the family of Maxwell. The Lords Maxwell, afterwards Earls of Nithsdale, possessed the heritable office of Stewards of the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright and keepers of the Castle of Threave until the year 1747, when all the heritable jurisdictions in Scotland were annexed to the Crown.

The keeper of the Castle of Threave received from each of the parishes of the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright what was called "a lardner mart cow," that is, a cow in such condition as to be fit for killing and salting at Martinmas for winter provisions. These cows were regularly paid to the Earls of Nithsdale till the forfeiture of the last Earl in 1715, when the practice went into disuse; but formerly, so attentive were the family to that right, that when, in the year 1704, they sold the estate on which the Castle of Threave stood, they reserved the island and castle, that it might afford them a title to the cattle; and they regularly, by a written commission, appointed a captain of the Castle of Threave.

During the troubles under Charles I., the Earl of Nithsdale held this castle for the King, and armed, paid, and victualled a garrison of eighty men, besides officers, all at his own expense; till at length His Majesty, unable to send him any assistance, directed him to make the best conditions he could for himself and his garrison.

The same Castle of Threave was, A. D. 1451-2, the scene of an outrageous and cruel insult upon the royal authority. The

fortress was then held by William, eighth Earl of Douglas, who, in fact, possessed a more unlimited authority over the southern districts of Scotland than the reigning monarch. The Earl had, on some pretence, seized and imprisoned a baron, called Maclellan, tutor of Bombie, whom he threatened to bring to trial by his power of hereditary jurisdiction. The uncle of this gentleman, Sir Patrick Grey of Foulis, who commanded the body-guard of James II., obtained from that prince a warrant requiring from Earl Douglas the body of the prisoner. When Grey appeared, the Earl instantly suspected his errand. "You have not dined," said he, without suffering him to open his commission; "it is ill talking between a full man and a fasting." While Grey was dining, the unfortunate prisoner was, by Douglas's command, led forth to the court yard and beheaded. When the repast was finished, the King's letter was presented and opened. "Sir Patrick," said Douglas, leading Grey to the court, "right glad had I been to honour the King's messenger, but you have come too late; yonder lies your sister's son without the head; you are welcome to his dead body." Grey having mounted his horse, turned to the Earl, and expressed his wrath in a deadly oath, that he would requite the injury with Douglas's heart's blood. "To horse!" cried the haughty baron; and the messenger of his prince was pursued till within a few miles of Edinburgh. Grey, however, had an opportunity of keeping his vow; for, being upon guard in the King's antechamber at Stirling when James, incensed at the insolence of the Earl, struck him with his dagger, Sir Patrick rushed in, and dispatched him with a poleaxe.

The Castle of Threave was the last of the fortresses which held out for the house of Douglas after their grand rebellion in 1453. James II. writes an account of the exile of this potent family to Charles VII. of France, dated 8th July 1455, and adds, that all their castles had been yielded to him except Threave, which, at the time of his writing, was besieged by the royal troops.\*

Mr Joseph Train of Castle Douglas has in his possession eight small stone balls, four of them 3½ lbs. each, four about 1 lb. each, and a gold ring, which were found in the Castle of Threave in the summer of 1843 by some labourers whilst clearing away mould to be used as manure in the adjoining farm of Kelton Mains.

\* See Pinkerton's History, Appendix, Vol. i.; note in the Border Minstrelsy to the ballad titled Lord Maxwell's Good Night; and Forsyth's Beauties of Scotland; from which works the particulars in the text are transcribed.

There was also found, the preceding summer, a stone ball, about nineteen inches in diameter, which was presented to the Dumfries Museum, and may be seen in the Observatory at Maxwelltown.

Upon the estate of Duchrae, in the northern part of the parish, there are the marks of a small military station, which was probably occupied by a detachment of the Roman army.\*

*Land-owners.*—The landed property in the parish is divided among sixteen proprietors. Of these, several possess only a single farm, but in every instance the yearly rental is considerably above L. 50.

Balmaghie House, the residence of Captain James Murray Gordon, R. N., patron of the parish, is situated on the southern part of the parish, and not far from the Dee. Part of a more ancient building is incorporated with the present mansion, but no part of it is of modern erection. The grounds possess in a remarkable degree the undulating character so peculiar to Galloway, and, advantage having been taken of this in laying out the plantations, the effect is very pleasing.

Upon the estate of Duchrae, and near the junction of the Dee

\* The following interesting communication has been received from Mr Joseph Train of Castle-Douglas:—

“The only relic of the family of Douglas in Galloway that has reached our times, so far as my information extends, is part of an oaken bedstead, well authenticated to have been the principal one in the Castle of Threave, and said to have been that of Black Douglas himself. “It is one of the old closet kind of beds to be seen yet in some remote farm-houses in Galloway. The back and ends are of wood, and it seems to have had sliding doors in front, but they are gone. The parts that remain are entirely covered with carved figures of men and beasts, so rudely executed as to bespeak its high antiquity. Busts of the various Earls of the family in their robes and coronets are placed in the foreground, and surmounted by troopers caparisoned agreeable to the Act of James I., Parliament 9, Cap. 122. ‘Ilk laik landed man havand ten poundies in gudes and geare, shall have for his bodie and for y defence of y realme and ane sufficient action, (a leathern jacket strongly stuffed, anciently worn under a cot of mail,) ane barnet and ane glove of plate, with ane speare and sworde, ane harberihon, (habergeon) and gude iron jack for his bodie, with ane knapishag, (a head piece) and twa gude Hawkerties, (armour) for the lega.’ The infantry are evidently equipped in strict accordance with the Act James IV., Parliament 6, Cap. 87. ‘Mairover the king commands that ilk man havend the value of ane kow, in gudes and gear, shall have ane bow with ane schaffe of arrows and ane speare.’ The dragoons are mounted on weasel like chargers, each man in full panoply, and all performing different evolutions,—one is in the act of shouldering his spear, another drawing his claymore, and a third cutting down the enemy. The first foot soldier bears the *handsengle* (standard), to which is attached a forked streamer with a lattier, or St Andrew’s cross. The national banner is supported by a sturdy bilman,—next comes an archer with his bow bent, and carrying in his belt his schaffe of arrows, and their various *Rantmen* and *Gillies*. The piper is a conspicuous person in this motley group, by the size of his cheeks, which appear extended to an extraordinary size by pressing wind into his instrument. He is accompanied by a Paganini-like personage playing on a one-stringed fiddle. The drummer, too, is a person of distinction—he is represented as on a march, his drum being unbraced and slung over his shoulder by a belt; but a variety of sword and Morris dancers seem more actively employed, being represented in all the zany buffoon attitudes of such performers. Although this an-

and Ken, the proprietor, John Cuninghame, Esq., built, about twenty years ago, a very handsome house, in the old English style. The stone used is granite, and was obtained partly in this parish and partly in Kells. The situation has considerable natural advantages, of which the proprietor has judiciously availed himself, and the place possesses much beauty.

These two gentlemen usually reside upon their estates in the parish. There are three other resident heritors, who farm their own lands.

The ecclesiastical history of this parish is interesting in one particular, from its connection with the origin of the Reformed Synod. Mr John M'Millan, the founder of that body, was minister of Balmaghie for more than two years. This gentleman appears not to have been satisfied with the Revolution settlement; and, accordingly, in May 1703, as the presbytery record bears, he protested verbally against all the courts of the Established Church, and declared, that "he would withdraw from the presbytery for three or four presbytery days, and perhaps longer;" but refused, in the first instance, to assign his reasons for adopting such a course. On being dealt with, however, he declared, that "the oath of allegiance, as cumulative to other defections, was the ground of his withdrawing, and that he knew not whether this church was Pres-

cient *bustle* (bed) cannot be, with any degree of certainty, traced back for a longer period than 366 years, its rude workmanship is indicative of higher antiquity. The figures are as rudely executed as the effigies on the coin of Alexander III., but the framework carving by which they are surrounded, and the ornamental panels below, are done in better taste and with more regularity.

"Since this relic came into my possession the greater part of the figures have been transplac'd and strengthened, with a view to make them resist for a few centuries more the work or ravages of time."

During the persecution in the seventeenth century, many persons, it is well known, suffered in Galloway in the cause of religion. In the churchyard of Balmaghie there are two grave-stones commemorative of the death of martyrs, one of which bears the following inscription:

"Here lyes David Halliday, portioner of Meifield, who was shot upon the 21st of Feb. 1685; and David Halliday, once in Glengape, who was likewise shot upon the 11th July 1685, for their adherence to the principles of Scotland's Covenanted Reformation.

Beneath this stone two David Hallidays  
Doe lie, whose souls now sing their Master's praise.  
To know, if curious passengers desire,  
For what, by whom, and how they did expire:  
They did oppose this nation's perjury;  
Nor could they join with lordly prelacy.  
Indulging favours from Christ's enemies  
Quenched not their zeal. This monument then cries,  
These were the causes, not to be forgot,  
Why they by Lag so wickedly were shot.  
One name, one cause, one grave, one heaven do tie  
Their souls to that one God eternally."

byterian or Episcopal, in regard the General Assembly had not declared the same by their explicit act." At a later stage, he gave in a written statement of grievances, as affecting, in his judgment, the purity and Scriptural character of the Church. In taking this step, he had the avowed concurrence of two other members of the presbytery, but who afterwards withdrew their support, so that he was left alone. After a variety of proceedings in the case, the narrative of which occupies a large portion of the presbytery records of the time, and Mr M'Millan still preserving, upon the whole, the attitude he had assumed, the presbytery at length proceeded to his deposition, in December 1703. This sentence they pronounced mainly upon the ground that the course pursued by Mr M'Millan, in withdrawing himself from the presbytery, and in other respects, was, in their judgment, essentially divisive and schismatic. Such, however, was the regard in which he was held by the parishioners, that they resisted every attempt to eject him from the manse and church. Mr William M'Kie, though legally inducted to the charge, was obliged to hire a house for himself, and to officiate in a barn to those who were willing to acknowledge and attend his ministry.\* At length, after the struggle had continued in the parish for twelve years, Mr M'Millan retired voluntarily, and connected himself with the United Societies which existed in various parts of the country, and adhered to Mr Cameron's views of ecclesiastical polity. In 1743, he was joined by Mr Thomas Nairne, a minister of the Associate Presbytery, but who had separated from that body. These two ministers, together with some ruling elders, concurred in constituting a presbytery at Braehead, in the parish of Carnwath, on the 1st of August 1743, under the appellation of the Reformed Presbytery.

On the first December 1753, Mr M'Millan died at Broomhill, in Lanarkshire, and was buried in the churchyard of Dalsersf, where a monument has lately been erected to his memory. He attained the venerable age of eighty-four years.

*Parochial Registers.*—In regard to parochial registers, it may be mentioned, that, prior to 1804, but little attention appears to

\* When some of Mr M'Kie's adherents went to plough the glebe for his behoof, those of his competitor rose up against them, cut the reins in pieces, turned the horses loose, and threw the ploughshare into the adjoining lake. Some threatened violence to the minister's person. An infuriated female actually attempted the execution of it, and would probably have effected her purpose, had he not interposed his hand between his throat and a reaping sickle, with which she was armed. His fingers were cut to the bone. The glove which he wore was carefully preserved, as a memorial of the providential escape he had made.—*Notes to the Old Statistical Account.*

have been bestowed on this particular. Since that date a register of marriages, births, and baptisms has been regularly kept.

### III.—POPULATION.

Population in 1755, according to Dr Webster's return,	697
1794,	862
Population in 1831,	males, 721; females, 695; total, 1416.
1841,	males, 592; females, 660; total, 1252.

Of these 275 reside in the village of Laurieston, and 248 in that of Bridge of Dee. The number of families is 268, giving an average of something more than  $4\frac{1}{2}$  persons to each family. The average number of children residing in each family is about  $2\frac{1}{2}$ .

Number of population under 15 years is	-	459
between 15 and 30,	-	302
30 and 50,	-	270
50 and 70,	-	170
70 and upwards,	-	51
		1252

Bachelors above fifty years of age are 10 in number; the unmarried women above forty-five are 13. There are 3 fatuous and 2 blind persons. There is one deaf and dumb boy, who is at present receiving his education in Edinburgh. The average number of births for the last seven years is  $24\frac{1}{2}$ ; the average number of marriages for the same period is 6. The inhabited houses are 226, and the uninhabited, 9.

The decrease of 164 in the population since 1831 is accounted for by the circumstance, that, at that period, operations were carrying on to deepen the bed of the Dee, at the lower end of the parish, with the view of facilitating the passage of the waters during floods. This of course led to the employment and temporary residence of a considerable number of workmen, who have since passed away. The same circumstance accounts for the fact, that, in the return for that period, the number of males was considerably above that of females.

*Character and Habits of the People.*—The people are in general comfortably clothed and lodged, and they appear to be contented. Most of the cottagers keep a pig or two, and, as the farmers are accustomed to allow potato land for the manure thus produced, they are in this way supplied with an important article of food.

### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—The staple employment is agriculture, and by far the greater number of families is engaged in its pursuits. Upon these, of course, the artisans and shop-keepers are dependent for their support.



The total number of acres in the parish may be estimated at 17,518 Scots. Of these, about 5472 are arable, and 12,046 remain constantly waste or in pasture. Cultivation, it is believed, has been extended over all the lands from which a profitable return could reasonably be expected.

*Rent of Land.*—The average rent of arable land is 15s. per Scots acre. The real rental of the parish is L.6200. When the Old Statistical Account was drawn up, the real rental was L.2640.

*Live-Stock.*—Galloway cattle are reared over the whole parish, and for them the farmers in general have a decided preference over all other breeds. There are, however, on some of the farms, a number of Ayrshire cows. In the higher districts, a number of Highlanders are grazed. In regard to sheep, the black-faced sort are of course the staple on the upland farms; but, on the richer soils, crosses between the Leicester and Mug, or between the Leicester and Cheviot, are also reared.

The general duration of leases is nineteen years. The farmsteadings are in general good; those on the estate of Balmaghie were all rebuilt near the beginning of this century, and are excellent specimens of that class of buildings. Stone dikes constitute the usual enclosure, and are, upon the whole, in a good state of repair. In tillage husbandry, the seven shift rotation is usually followed. Bone-dust is used to a considerable extent in the raising of turnips, which are eaten off by sheep, and thus the farmer is enabled to have an additional quantity of land under the plough. A good deal of draining is every year done, but, as stones are plentiful, tiles are not much used.

*Raw Produce.*—The average gross amount of raw produce annually raised in the parish may be estimated as follows :

36,650 bushels of oats, at 2s. 5d.,	.	.	L.4428	10	10
1,000 Do. barley, at 3s. 5d.,	.	.	170	16	8
190 acres of potatoes, at L.8 per acre,	.	.	1520	0	0
123 Do. turnips, at L.4 per do.	.	.	492	0	0
56,500 stones of meadow hay, at 4d. per stone,	.	.	941	13	4
16,780 Do. rye-grass hay, at 6d. per do.	.	.	469	10	0
253 cows, producing L.6 per head annually,	.	.	1518	0	0
959 black-cattle, yielding an average return for keep by the year, of	.	.			
L.2, 10s.	.	.	2397	10	0
4,080 moorland sheep, at 4s. per head,	.	.	816	0	0
385 white-faced sheep, at 10s.	.	.	167	10	0
			<hr/>		
			L.12,921	10	10

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

There are two considerable villages in the parish, Laurieston

and Bridge of Dee, the population of which has already been given.

*Market-Town.*—Castle Douglas, in the parish of Kelton, is the nearest market-town, and is situated at the distance of about six miles from the centre of Balmaghie. There are two branch post-offices in the parish. The length of turnpike road may be estimated at about sixteen miles. The fences along the way sides are in very good repair; and the same remark applies to the bridges. That across the Dee at Glenlochar was built by subscription about the beginning of this century, and is substantial and commodious.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church, which was built in 1794, and is in a good state of repair, is situated near the Dee, and consequently at one side of the parish. It is seated for nearly four hundred persons. No payment is exacted for sittings, but the whole of the church is allocated to the respective estates, with the exception of the communion seats, which are capable of accommodating thirty-six persons, and are free to all.

The manse was built near the beginning of the present century, and is in an excellent state of repair. The extent of the glebe is fourteen Scots acres, and may be worth about thirty shillings per acre. The stipend is sixteen chalders, half barley and half meal.

There are about 112 individuals professing to adhere to the Church of Rome, and 22 Episcopalians. There are 11 persons connected with the Reformed Synod, and three families with the United Associate Synod.

*Education.*—There are two parochial schools, one of which is situated in the village of Laurieston, and the other at Glenlochar. The salary connected with the former is L.30 Sterling, and the school fees may yield an equal sum. That of the teacher at Glenlochar is L.21, 6s. 6½d. Sterling, and the school fees may amount to L.14. A dwelling-house has lately been erected by the heritors for the teacher at Laurieston. There is a third school at Bridge of Dee, endowed by the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, to whom the lands in that neighbourhood belong. The salary paid to the teacher, including certain items allowed him, is nearly L.30, and the school fees may be estimated at L.25. He is accommodated with a house and offices.

Sunday schools have been established in three different localities, and are at present attended by upwards of 100 young people.

*Library.*—A subscription library was commenced many years ago, and is still in existence; but the members are not numerous.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—There are at present 30 paupers receiving stated aid from the poor's funds. The highest sum paid to a pauper, in ordinary circumstances, is L.5 annually, and the lowest L.1. There are two insane paupers supported from these funds at an annual charge of L.26. The sum annually expended upon the poor amounts to about L.80, and is raised partly by the collections in the church, and partly by donations from the heritors individually. Amongst many there is an evident reluctance to apply, in the first instance, for stated relief; but it is equally observable, that the feeling disappears when they have been in receipt of such aid for a time.

*Inns and Alehouses.*—There are five small inns and two alehouses in the parish. All of these, with one exception, are conducted with much propriety, and, it is believed, without ill consequences to the morals of the people.

*Fuel.*—In various parts of the parish peat is found in great abundance, and constitutes the fuel principally used by the inhabitants. Coal is imported from the shores of Cumberland, and landed at Kirkcudbright, Tongland, and Palnackie in the parish of Buittle; but as the nearest of these places is nine miles distant, the charge for overland carriage constitutes a heavy per centage upon the cost of the article. At the less busy seasons, many of the farmers are in the practice of sending for coals to Dalmellington in Ayrshire. The distance is not less than thirty-five miles; but, considering the small charge at the pit-mouth, the trifling expenses incurred on the road, and that the journeys are so timed as not materially to interfere with the work of the farm, this is found to be a rather economical method of procuring a supply of fuel.

*February 1844.*

## PARISH OF CROSSMICHAEL.

PRESBYTERY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT, SYNOD OF GALLOWAY.

THE REV. JOHN WHITSON, M. D., MINISTER.

---

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name, &c.*—THE parish of Crossmichael is situated about the middle of the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright. In old writings, it is called Corsemichael. The ancient and modern appellation is obviously derived from St Michael, the patron saint, to whom the church was dedicated. No vestige, however, of any cross is to be seen, and there is no allusion to it in any traditions that have been handed down to us. St Michael seems, however, to have been regarded as an individual of more than ordinary sanctity, as those churches called Kirkmichael were obviously dedicated to him; and one in the parish of Tongland, on the west side of the Dee, at a small village called Balnacross, or the town of the cross, derived its name from the same source.

The church of Crossmichael was transferred to the Abbey of Sweetheart in 1275 by Dervorgille, the wife of Allan and mother of John Baliol, who succeeded to the Scottish throne as the descendant of David of Huntingdon. Dervorgille survived her husband, and founded Baliol College at Oxford, and monasteries at New Abbey or Sweetheart, Wigton, Dumfries, and Dundee. Until 1587, this church remained with the monks of Sweetheart, after which it was annexed to the Crown. In 1624, the estate belonging to this abbey became the property of Sir Robert Spottiswoode, who transferred his right to Charles I. in 1633, when the see of Edinburgh was about to be erected. When Prelacy was abolished in 1689, the patronage of the church and parish fell to the Crown; but was given to the Viscount of Kenmore, whose family had long considered itself as having a legal right to it. The minister of Crossmichael was made a member of the Chapter of Galloway at the re-establishment of Episcopacy by James VI., and lands, rated by the old extent at forty shillings, originally belonged to him, of which he was deprived at the Reformation.

*Extent and Boundaries.*—The length of the parish from north to south, is about four miles and a-half, and its breadth about a mile less. On the west, it is bounded by the Dee, which separates it from the parish of Balmaghie; on the north, by Parton; on the east, by the river Urr, which separates it from Kirkpatrick-Durham, and Urr; and on the south, by the parishes of Buittle and Kelton. Its figure is rectangular. When, under David I., the Episcopate of Galloway was re-established, its eastern boundary was the Urr and its western the Cree. The eastern division of the Stewartry formed a portion of the Bishoprick of Glasgow, and was included in the Deanery of Nith. At the Reformation, the parishes in the eastern division of the Stewartry were made to form part of the Presbytery of Dumfries, while the others formed the Presbytery of Kirkcudbright, with the exception of Kirkma-breck and Minnigaff, which, on account of their locality, were annexed to the Presbytery of Wigton. The river Urr, therefore, which was formerly the boundary between the Bishopricks of Galloway and Glasgow, is now the boundary between the Synods of Dumfries and Galloway, and between the Presbyteries of Dumfries and Kirkcudbright. Along the banks of the Urr and the Dee, the land is very fertile; and in other parts of the parish there are small, rich, and beautiful valleys. The general appearance of the parish, however, is hilly, and, up to a not very remote date, it may have been regarded as a district in a middle state between pastoral and agricultural. In the north-east district of the parish, there are a number of hills fit only for pasture, and which yield but little grass. They are rocky, and some of them have lately been planted with larch. In the immediate vicinity of the shore, there are hills rising to the height of 100 or 200 feet, and the interior of the country for several miles is nearly at the same elevation, and of a very unequal surface. The country is thus divided into a succession of hills more or less abrupt. The surface of the hills is very frequently broken by abrupt protuberances, steep banks, and rocky knolls of every shape. In many instances, however, these hills are cultivated to their summits, and yield excellent crops. The soil is extremely various, consisting chiefly of sand, till, loam, or holm, and the crops in general are good where justice has been done to the land.

*Hydrography.*—There are three lakes in this parish. The first is Erncrags loch, on two small islands of which sea-gulls formerly built their nests. Were the water it contains not necessary for

driving a meal-mill, to which nearly all the parish is thirled, it might be almost, if not altogether dried. It contains trouts, pikes, perches, and eels. The second is Lochroan, which is larger than the former, containing about fifty acres of ground, and is supplied with water from no visible source but the clouds. It is situated in the highest district of the parish, and its depth varies from 60 to 130 feet. It is seldom frozen in winter, and its water is remarkably clear. The third is Lochsmaddy, which is not nearly the size of either of the two former ones, but is said to be deep, and, like them, to contain the kinds of fish which have already been mentioned.

On the estate of Auchendolly there is a chalybeate spring, which has not been analyzed, but which is probably too weak to be beneficially employed.

The river Dee, which forms the western boundary of the parish, rises at the head of the parish of Minnigaff from Loch Dee and other sources in the north-western district of the stewartry, and runs in a south-east course of twenty-two miles, when it meets at Livingstone with the Ken, which, although supplying the greatest quantity of water, loses its name in the Dee, which then becomes the largest river in Galloway, and formed of old the boundary between the powerful tribes of the Selgovæ and Novantes. It is noticed by Ptolemy and Richard under the name of Deva.

The Ken, which rises in the northern part of the stewartry, runs twenty-five miles in a southerly course, forms a lake of four miles and a-half long and half a mile broad, called Loch Ken. These rivers, after their junction, form another lake of similar length and smaller breadth, having the parishes of Balmaghie on the west, and Parton and Crossmichael on the east. These collections of water, extending to about ten miles in length, frequently overflow the adjoining land, and are navigable. Formerly, great quantities of marl were brought from Carlinwark loch by a canal to the Dee, and which passed up to New Galloway, fifteen miles distant from the loch. The canal was of very moderate dimensions, and is now partially filled up. The late Sir Alexander Gordon obtained an act of Parliament for making a canal from the sea to near Glenlochiar bridge, which, according to the calculations of engineers about the end of last century, could have been executed for about L.9000. That sum, however, it appears could not be procured, and the undertaking was most reluctantly abandoned by its public-spirited and benevolent author. The Dee, after leaving this parish, runs southward, dividing the parishes of

Balmaghie, Tongland, and Twynholm on the west, from the parishes of Kelton and Kirkcudbright on the east. Formerly, there was no bridge in this neighbourhood over the Dee, ferry-boats supplying their places, occasioning frequently great annoyance and danger. The erection, therefore, of the one at Glenlochar, upwards of thirty years ago, has been a most important acquisition to the country. The floods of the river, which are sometimes very frequent, injure the grass on the meadows, rendering it for some time unwholesome food for cattle. The breadth of the river is very variable. Opposite the manse, where there is a ferry-boat, it is 220 yards broad, and its depth from 40 to 60 feet. The bed of the river, between Glenlochar bridge and Tongland, is rocky, and, in many places, shallow.

The river Urr rises from Loch Urr. It divides the parishes of Glencairn, Dunscore, Kirkpatrick-Durham, Urr, and Colvend, on the east side, from the parishes of Balmaclellan, Parton, Cross-michael, and Buittle, on the west side. The rivers in this neighbourhood do not now discharge the same quantity of water into the sea as formerly; which is accounted for by supposing that land cultivated absorbs much more moisture than it did in its wild state, from its being more pervious to water, and from more of that fluid being required for the nourishment and growth of plants. The rivers Dee and Urr have abundance of trouts, and salmon coming up to spawn in them are caught in great numbers. The salmon caught in the Dee are considered superior in quality to those caught in any other river in the neighbourhood. Few of them pass Tongland from the doughs erected there. The pike, perch, and eel are also to be found in the Dee. The perch is said to have been first introduced into it in 1750, by Mr Copland of Collieston, and are now taken sometimes in great numbers. From a statement made by Boethius, and reiterated by Buchanan,—that eels were formerly caught here in great quantities, and transmitted to Italy, it would appear that they then existed in much greater abundance than at present. 'Mussels are found in the Dee, from which pearls have been taken of some value.

*Geology.*—The rock most common here consists of strata of the transition class, including not only the slateband, but also the hard compost strata, called greywacke, which is similar to the blue whinstone of Galloway. The schistus is formed of strata containing substances very unlike each other. This stone exists in beds, varying from half an inch to many feet in thickness, and is mixed in

endless proportions with the slate-band. Their strata lie in every direction, from being perfectly vertical to nearly horizontal. They are sometimes found united to veins of porphyry, and run in a direction from east-north-east to west-south-west. The highest parts of the Stewartry consist entirely of granite, to the extent of miles, which sometimes runs in veins among the strata of schistus.

The soil lying on granite is generally barren. The degree of fertility of the schistus district seems very much to follow the proportion of slate-band in the rock below it. The hills of gravel and tile are covered with a soil similar to the mosses of which they are composed.

From the rocky nature of the country it is every where abundantly supplied with stones for building and draining; but, unless at Kirkbean, I am not aware of any place where limestone has been wrought. All the freestone employed is brought from beyond Dumfries, a distance of twenty miles. It is only, therefore, sought for expensive houses, to furnish door and window ribbets and lintels. Many of the houses in Galloway are damp and liable to smoke. There is a slate quarry at Parton, which is most convenient for the neighbourhood. There are no circumstances indicating that coals exist in the district.

*Zoology.*—A small breed of horses, from twelve to fourteen hands high, was formerly common, and held in high estimation in Galloway. There being little occasion to employ them in the draught, they travelled quickly and safely, in a rugged and mountainous country. The ancient breed is now almost lost. Horses of greater weight became necessary, as those every way fitted for predatory excursions ceased to be of peculiar value for the operose processes of agriculture. Their colour is generally a light bay or brown, with black legs; their heads were unusually small, and their whole form indicated a capability of enduring great fatigue. The horses now to be found in Galloway, with the exception of being rather smaller in size, differ little from those found throughout Scotland. In the cart, they are all yoked single.

Galloway has long been distinguished for a peculiar breed of cattle, and, from the soil and climate being peculiarly adapted for rearing them, they have received great attention. They are universally almost without horns, less than the horned breed of Lancaashire, but larger than those in the West Highlands, and bearing a very considerable resemblance to the cattle peculiar to Angushire. Their general colour is black. In the dairies in the neigh-



bourhood, cows of the Ayrshire breed only are kept, each of which is expected to yield about seven pounds a year from milk, butter, and cheese.

The farmers in Galloway now raise a large number of swine, which they kill in the winter and spring, and sell at Dumfries, where there is generally a quick demand, and always ready money. A considerable part of the rent of small farms is made in this way.

Sheep are every year increasing in numbers, from the great use now made of bone-dust as a manure. They in general pay well.

*Plantations.*—Plantations of larch are becoming common, and they thrive well; giving to some parts a great degree of richness and beauty, which otherwise would have been uninteresting and useless.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

In Symson's description of Galloway, there are some important particulars regarding this parish stated; and a few things connected with it may be found in Hay's MS., in Keith, in the *Inquisit. Speciales*; but by far the fullest and best history of Galloway is to be found in Chalmers' *Caledonia*. The former *Statistical Account* was written by the late Mr Johnstone, formerly minister of the parish; and is marked by those clear and correct statements which characterized the speeches and writings of that able and eloquent individual. The only map ever drawn of this parish, as far as I know, is that of Mr William M'Artenay, of which only two copies existed: it is dated in the year 1771.

*Land-owners.*—There are 28 heritors in the parish, of whom 16 hold land above L.50 in value yearly. Of these two are resident, and some of the others visit their estates for a short period.

*Antiquities.*—There formerly existed ten tumuli in this neighbourhood, in some of which human bones of a large size were found, and there are some remains of ancient and later fortifications. The foundation of a large convent was long ago discovered, of which nothing is known. Roman urns and warlike instruments have been found in ploughing and digging the land.

The following has been communicated by Joseph Train, Esq., Castle-Douglas:—

“ There are in no other part of the stewartry of Kirkcudbright so many vestiges of remote antiquity to be seen in the same space, as in the parish of Crossmichael. Between the rivers Dee and Urr, within a circuit of two miles, are six moats, some of which are very large, conspicuous, and entire. That on the farm of Ger-

ranton differs a little in form from the rest, having one side curved inwards, whereas the others are all of a circular or oval form, and, what is very singular, *each of three moats has a road-way to the summit by a sloping passage towards the east.*

“ Within a distance of two miles may also be seen thirteen large sepulchral cairns, in some of which stone-coffins, containing human bones, have been found; and on a steepy crag, overhanging the margin of Loch Roan, are the remains of an ancient hill-fort, yet called by the country people the Auld Kirk of Loch Roan.

“ In an adjacent field, there were ploughed up, a few years ago, two ancient spear-heads, and lately, in the farm of Kilnotrie, was turned up, by the plough, a Roman battle-axe of bronze, of fine workmanship. It is now in the possession of Mr James Napier of Greenlaw.

“ Near Glenlochar Bridge was also turned up, by the plough, several years ago, the head of a caparisoned war-horse in bronze, evidently of Roman manufacture. This unique remnant of antiquity is now in the possession of Colonel James Gordon of Culvennan.

“ In the farm of Hallferne was found lately, near the large moat, a beautiful Druidical amulet, such as the country people call an *adder* bead. It is of a circular form, nearly an inch in diameter, and is composed of a pale-coloured glassy substance, having on the surface all around a waving stripe of yellow. Popular credulity having, in olden times, derived the origin of the ‘quht stane of cristal,’ from a mysterious combination of serpents, its virtues were considered universal, whether as an antidote, palliative, or cure. By the kindness of Mr Clark, the present occupant of the farm of Hallferne, this relic has fallen into my possession.

“ There have been found, at different times, near the same place, several round flat stones, each five or six inches diameter, perforated artificially in the centre. Even within the memory of some persons yet alive, these perforated stones were used in Galloway to counteract the supposed effects of witchcraft, particularly in horses and black-cattle. ‘The canie wife o’ Glengappock put a boirt stane into ane tub filled withe water, and causit syne the hail cattell to pass by, and, when passing, springled ilk ane o’ them with a besome dipped in it.’ One of these perforated stones, as black and glossy as polished ebony, is also in my possession. It was recently found in the ruins of an old byre, where it had evidently been placed for the protection of the cattle. It appears to

be exactly similar to that found between the Dee and the Urr, and presented to the Antiquarian Society of Scotland in the year 1782 by Alexander Copland, Esq. of Coliston." (See Caledonia, Vol. iii. p. 233.)

The present church was built in 1751, and has been repeatedly enlarged and repaired since. The manse was built in 1744, and has received two large additions and frequent repairs since that period. There are three mansion-houses in the parish of considerable size and elegance, on the estate of Greenlaw, Mollance and Danevale.

### III.—POPULATION.

Upwards of eighty years ago, the population amounted to 613. In January 1791, it amounted to 772. In 1831, it had increased to 1325; and when the last census was taken in 1841, it amounted to 1320.

Smuggling long ago existed in Galloway, but has now disappeared; but poaching in game is still persevered in by a few idle and otherwise ill-disposed persons, in spite of the punishment which is occasionally inflicted upon them. Many young men have hitherto been in the habit of going from Galloway to England, and becoming travelling dealers in tea or cloth, some of whom, by their persevering and regular habits, have succeeded in accumulating a few thousand pounds. These fortunate adventurers generally return to spend the latter part of their days in their native land, and are very respectable members of society.

The little distance between this place and Ireland has induced many of the needy and forward adventurers of that country to migrate thither in a state of great poverty and ignorance, which, in many instances, has a most injurious effect on those with whom they are led to associate.

### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—Many parts of the parish are susceptible of great improvement, which, from the amount of the necessary outlay, would require to be executed by the proprietors. These improvements would consist chiefly of draining; and, from the retentive nature of the subsoil in many places, the drains would require to be very numerous. The practice, too, of taking in succession a number of corn crops, ought to be abandoned, and the land more carefully cleared of weeds and stones. The practice of feeding sheep with turnip on the ground, is becoming very common. Large quantities of bone-dust are yearly or-

dered, and easily deposited in places to which common manure could be driven with difficulty. The appearance of many parts of the country has, in consequence, been entirely changed, and, from this cause, the agriculture of Galloway has received a greater impulse than from any other that could be assigned. The quantity of bone-dust usually given to an acre is from 18 to 30 bushels, while, in other parts of Scotland, where that manure has been longer in use, not more than 12 or 15 bushels are frequently allowed. In Galloway, the whole of the turnips are generally consumed on the ground, while, in Perthshire and Forfarshire, a-half or two-thirds are given to cattle in the feeding byre. The new manure called guano has now been repeatedly tried and found to answer in almost every instance beyond expectation. Many of the farm-buildings are insufficient. The fences are often insecurely built, which must often be the source of great annoyance. Thorns are often planted in the dikes, which, in many instances, protect and perpetuate the fence.

*Rent of Land.*—The average rent of arable land in this parish is about 18s., and bog and hill land 5s. per acre.

The duration of leases is generally for fifteen years. In many instances, the farms are let at too high rents, and which seldom fail to injure both landlords and tenants.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Villages.*—There are two villages in the parish, Crossmichael and Clarebrand,—the former containing about 240, and the latter about 50 inhabitants.

*Post-Office.*—There is a penny post in the village of Crossmichael.

*Means of Communication.*—The greatest length of turnpike roads is about five miles.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—Our church is at the west side of the parish, about a mile from where it joins with Parton on the north, and about three miles and a-half from where it meets with Kelton on the south. It is seated for about 650, and there are 18 free sittings in it. Originally, the glebe consisted of five acres and a-half, to which other 10 have been added. In 1755, the living, on an average, was L.67, 4s. 4d. In 1798, it amounted to L.174, 16s. 1d., being the most valuable in the stewartry. In 1814, the stipend was fixed, the tithes being exhausted, at L.269, 15s. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. payable in money in equal proportions, at Whitsunday and Martinmas. The glebe is worth about L.28 annually. At the south-

ern extremity of the parish, and adjoining the town of Castle Douglas, a chapel in connection with the Relief Synod has existed for a few years. It is not understood to be in a flourishing condition, its members being few, and those not in affluent circumstances. Two families belong to the Secession, five or six to the Cameronians, and three or four to the Catholic churches. A number have joined or are in the habit of frequently attending the Free Church in Castle Douglas. The collections in the church for the poor of the parish amount to about L.40 annually. A collection is annually made in the church for the support of the schemes of the General Assembly.

*Education.*—There are two parochial schools in the parish, and in one of them no fees are exacted. There are two other schools. In our first parochial school, nearly the maximum salary is given by the heritors, along with a house and garden, and all the usual branches of education are taught in it successfully, along with French, Greek, Latin, and geography, with the use of the globes. The other was built and endowed by William Gordon, Esq., merchant in Bristol, in 1735. The endowment, which is only L.11, being unable to support a teacher and his family, he was induced, in 1775, to petition the Commissioners of Supply, when he obtained a legal salary of 200 merks Scots. Of late, the school-house has been enlarged, and the dwelling-house is comfortable, to which a good garden is attached. No fees are exacted from children belonging to the parish; but small gratuities are given at Candlemas. English, writing, and arithmetic, are the only branches taught in it.

There is a parochial library in the parish. In 1792 a Brotherly Society was instituted for the benefit of those connected with it, when visited with sickness. It also gave assistance to the widows of those who had been members. Like many other institutions of the same kind, it failed in securing for its members the ends they had in view, and the whole of its funds were divided among them a few years ago.

*Savings' Bank.*—A national security savings' bank has now for a few years been established in Castle Douglas, and is at present in a most flourishing condition.

*Poor.*—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid amounts to about twenty-three, and the average sum per quarter allotted to each amounts to about 15s. In a few instances only,

I have been able to see any decided reluctance, in persons in reduced circumstances, to receive aid from the poor's funds.

*Inns.*—There are four houses in the parish where spirits are retailed.

*Fuel.*—The fuel used by the lower classes is mostly peats, which are carted three or four miles, with an occasional supply of wood and coals.

*February 1844.*

## PARISH OF BUTTLE.

PRESBYTERY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT, SYNOD OF GALLOWAY.

THE REV. ALEXANDER CROSBIE, MINISTER.

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—"VARIOUS opinions," says Mr Maxwell, in the former Statistical Account of Scotland, "are entertained as to the derivation of the name. Some have thought that *Boot-hill* or *Butt-hill* was the original name of that territory which now composes the parish of Buittle, on account of the frequent musters of cavalry or archers that must have taken place in the vicinity of the castle after-mentioned. With as much probability, however, it may be suggested, that the word *Buittle* is but a contraction of *Bowet-hill* or *Bowet-hall*, an appellation occasioned by the beacons in the neighbourhood of the castle alluded to, or from the great light which it displayed on festive or solemn occasions." In Chalmers's Caledonia, Vol. iii. p. 316, it is stated, that "the word *Buittle* is obviously the Anglo-Saxon *Botle*, *domicilium valla*. This Anglo-Saxon word appears very often in the topography both of England and Scotland, as *Bootle* near Liverpool, *Bootle* in Cumberland, *Wall-bootle* on Severus' wall, *New-bootle* in Mid-Lothian, *El-bootle* in East-Lothian, and *Mer-botle*, which is now Morbattell, in Roxburghshire."

*Boundaries.*—The parish is bounded on the north, by the parishes of Crossmichael and Kelton; on the south, by the bay of Orchardton; on the east, by the parishes of Urr and Colvend, from which it is separated by the river Urr; and on the west, by a small stream which separates it from Kelton and Rerwick. The river Dee, which runs past Kirkcudbright, may, at some remote period,

by flowing through Carlinwark loch and Glengagrie, and falling into the sea at Orchardton bay, have formed the boundary on the west side. This supposition is strengthened, and in some measure confirmed, by there being a place on this line denominated the *Doagh*, which would then have been a station for catching salmon. Besides, when the river Dee is swollen, it flows into Carlinwark loch, and nothing prevents the water issuing from that loch in this direction, but a narrow ridge of accumulated gravel at Burntstick, elevated a few feet above its present level. The length of the parish from north to south is 10 miles, and its breadth, which is irregular, may average about 8 miles.

*Topographical Appearance.*—The surface is finely diversified with hill and dale, and though it does not abound with grand and sublime prospects, affords much beautiful and picturesque scenery. In the lower and middle districts, the ground is broken and uneven, and frequently juts out into steep banks and rocky knolls covered with furze and broom. In the upper district, it presents a more level and arable appearance.

It is evident that the sea has receded from this coast, and that at a former period it must have flowed up the Urr, as far as *Furth-head*, or *Frith-head*, two miles from its present boundary, and considerably above its present elevation at high water, covering a great extent of ground on each of its banks.

*Climate.*—The climate is mild and salubrious, as the longevity of many of the parishioners testifies. There are at present eight individuals about 90 years of age; and sixteen individuals, either upwards of 80 or approaching nearly to that age. Twelve years ago, one individual died at the age of 103. There are no diseases peculiar to the parish.

*Woods.*—The cultivation of wood has been greatly extended during the last forty years, and might be profitably extended still farther. Much ground, at present waste and uncultivated, and many places naked and exposed to every blast, might be protected and sheltered, and rendered capable of producing both grain and pasture of a better quality. The soil, climate, and situation are in general well adapted for planting and raising wood, as the rapid growth of various kinds of trees testifies. In some of the woods at Munshes, there are larches of thirty years' growth, girthing four feet and a-half at three feet from the ground; some of the poplar and willow tribes, not yet twenty years planted, girthing four feet. The Spanish chestnut thrives well, and increases

rapidly,—trees of this species, not above thirty years planted, girthing four feet. The Scotch firs are of large size, and highly ornamental. There are also oaks containing upwards of 100 feet of timber, and beeches 160 feet.

Although the larch grows vigorously for a time, it has not any where in the parish attained to a large size. There are larches at Munshes, from seventy to eighty years of age, which would not yield more than 40 or 50 feet of timber. Most of them are evidently not in a healthy state.

Upwards of 100 acres of natural wood, on the estate of Kirkennan, are now in the course of being cut down. This wood consists of oak, ash, birch, &c. It is thirty years old.

The woods on the estates of Kirkennan, Barlochan, Almerness, and Castlegower, are from one to thirty-five years planted. There is wood on the estate of Munshes much older. All the woods in the parish consist chiefly of oak. Yearly thinning and pruning, though in some places neglected, have in general been well attended to.

#### Number of acres under wood.

Estates.	Imperial acres.
Kirkennan, - - -	247
Orchardton, - - -	190
Almerness, - - -	168
Munshes, - - -	156
Castlegower and Craighton, -	76
Halketbaths, - - -	44
Barlochan, - - -	34
The other estates may contain	50

---

960

At Hopehead, on the line of the old military road from Castle Douglas to Dumfries, there is a common plane tree, known by the name of the *Forge-tree*, equalled by few if any, in this neighbourhood. It girths  $10\frac{1}{2}$  feet at three feet and a-half from the ground. Its branches extend horizontally, and form an exact circle of 76 feet in diameter, the extremities of which are not more than five feet from the ground. The top is of a conical shape, and, when covered with foliage, affords an agreeable shade, and presents a magnificent appearance. There are no records from which its precise age can be ascertained; but, according to tradition, it was a full-grown tree in the reign of King William III.; and it may have derived its name from His Majesty having passed that road with his army on his way to Ireland, and his cavalry having erected a forge there for the purpose of shoeing their horses. The trunk contains 100 feet, and the branches upwards of 200 feet of measurable timber. There is a



considerable cavity above the first row of branches, the depth of which has not been ascertained, owing to its being filled with stones. This is the only mark which it exhibits of decay.

At Little Knox, in the immediate vicinity of the church, there is a variegated plane tree, which girths 11 feet at three feet and a-half from the ground, and contains upwards of 200 feet of solid wood. Whether the variegation in the foliage of this tree has been accidentally produced, or has been effected by budding or engrafting, is not known; perhaps the former supposition is the correct one. This description of plane does not propagate its own variety. It sheds seed around it, which produces abundance of plants. Some of these were found, having the first tree leaves variegated like the parent tree. They were selected and transplanted, with the view of raising variegated planes; but, beyond the two first tree leaves, the variegation did not extend.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

“ The castle of Buittle, (says Mr Maxwell in the former Statistical Account of Scotland,) is assuredly the most considerable remains of antiquity in the parish. Some have affirmed that it was formerly called the Castle of *Knare*, *Nare*, or *Bar-nare*, and was the chief residence of the Reguli of Galloway. An adjoining hill, named *Craig-nair*, gives some weight to this supposition. Certain it is, however, that the ruins of Buittle Castle denote it to have been a place of strength and even magnificence. The vaults and ditches are all that remain of this proud structure. Besides the Castle of Buittle, the only other remembrance of ages equally rude and remote, is one of those ruins commonly called vitrified forts, standing on the north-west border of Buittle parish, within a farm called *Castlegower*, which lies along the march of *Kelton*.”

*Wells*.—There are two wells in this parish, mentioned in Symson’s description of Galloway, as having been, at a former period, much resorted to by valetudinarians on the first Sunday of May. One of these wells, called the *Rumbling Well*, is situated within the farm of *Buittle Mains*, on the march of *Little Knox* and *Guffocgland*, and its water was considered to be a panacea for the cure of all diseases which afflict the human body. The other well is supposed to be situated on the march between *Buittle Mains* and *Buittle Place*, and was held in estimation for the cure of a disease called the *Connach*, which affects cattle. These wells issue out of rocks, and discharge copious streams of pure water. Like many of the wells in this parish, they partake

more or less of a chalybeate nature; but they do not appear to be so much impregnated, by any mineral substance, which could in the least degree prove more efficacious in the cure of disease than any other well in the neighbourhood; and the belief in those supernatural qualities, with which superstition had invested them, being dispelled, they have long ceased to be resorted to by invalids.\*

*Parochial Registers.*—These consist of minutes of the kirk session, and of the records of marriages and baptisms. They commenced in 1736, and were regularly kept till 1780. From 1780 to 1807, the record of baptisms is somewhat defective. From 1736 to 1807, the date of the baptism is always entered; that of the birth only occasionally. Since 1807, the date of both the birth and baptism is recorded. The average number of marriages for the last three years is 6; of baptisms for the same period, 22; of deaths, 7. The register of baptisms is not so complete as it ought to have been, owing to Dissenters not choosing to enter the births of their children in the parish register. The entries are chiefly made by parents belonging to the Established Church.

### III.—POPULATION.

The population in 1755, by Dr Webster's report, was	-	-	809
1793, by last Statistical Account,	-	-	855
1808, census taken by the minister,	-	-	914
1811, census taken by direction of Parliament,	-	-	943
1821,	-	-	1023
1831,	-	-	1000
1836, census taken by the minister,	-	-	1018
1841,	-	-	1059
	1793.	1808.	1836.
Members of the Established Church,	678	694	847
Cameronians,	67	43	5
Seceders,	34	59	15
Roman Catholics,	75	103	94
Episcopalians,	1	1	11
Relief,	—	14	—
Independents,	—	—	45
Baptists,	—	—	1
Total,	855	914	1018
Under 7 years of age,	.	.	187
Under 12 years of age,	.	.	320

\* " In this parish of Bootle, about a mile from the kirk, towards the north, is a well, called the Rumbling Well, frequented by a multitude of sick people for all sorts of diseases, on the first Sunday of May, lying there the Saturday night, and then drinking of it early in the morning. There is also another well, about a quarter of a mile distant, towards the east. This well is made use of by the country people when their cattell are troubled with a disease called by them the *cowback*. This water they carry in vessels to many parts, and wash their beasts with it, and give it them to drink. It is, too, rememb'ed, that, at both the wells, they leave behind them something by way of a thank-offering. At the first, they leave either money or clothes; at the second, they leave the bands and shackles wherewith beasts are usually bound."—*Symson's Description of Galloway*, page 16.

*Proprietors.*—There are 15 proprietors of land belonging to the parish whose properties are of the yearly value of L.50 and upwards, of which 7 reside in it, and 8 are non-resident.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—Though farm produce has not for several years past yielded a remunerating price, yet both landlords and tenants have adopted and prosecuted every plan of modern improvement with a degree of eagerness, perseverance, and success, not surpassed in any other part of the country. The turnip husbandry is greatly extended beyond what it was a few years ago. Feeding of sheep, for the last five or six years, has, with the exception of 1834, been profitable to the farmer; and the facility with which they are conveyed to the Liverpool market, by means of steam vessels, has contributed to produce this result. The kinds of grain raised in this parish consist of oats, barley, and wheat. The cultivation of wheat is chiefly confined to the clay soil, on the banks of the Urr and Bay of Orchardton. On the dry and lighter soils, adapted to turnip husbandry, barley is extensively cultivated. The *chevalier* barley was introduced about three years ago, and bids fair to exclude the common sort, which was formerly, and still is cultivated. It is considered to be a finer grain, more productive, and of greater weight per bushel. The rotation of crops most approved of on land under tillage is a white and green crop alternately, though in some instances the practice of taking two white crops in succession is followed. Besides the manure which the farm affords, lime and bone-dust are employed to stimulate and fertilize the soil.

The breeding and rearing of cattle is an object of great importance to the farmers, as they generally calculate on realizing a considerable part of their profits from this source. Our well-known breed of Galloway cattle bears a higher character, in almost every point, than any other. It yields beef, which, when well fed, is of the first-rate quality, and is said to bring, in the Smithfield market, a higher price, by at least 1s. per stone, than the best beef of England. The carcase weighs, on an average, from 50 to 60 stones, and, in some instances, 100 stones and upwards. Few Galloway bullocks are fed in this parish. They are generally sold to the cattle-dealers at two or three years old, and driven to England, where they are fed for the English markets. On three farms in this parish, the Ayrshire dairy system has been partially adopted with success.

The farmers hold their lands by leases varying in duration from fifteen to nineteen years, and pay rents from L.50 to L.700 per annum. There are several small patches of less value. The farms are enclosed by stone dikes, sunk fences, or hedge-rows. The real rent of the parish, independent of the value of woods and plantations, as taken in 1830, was upwards of L.8000 per annum. The valued rent in Scotch money is L.3461 per annum.

*Rate of Wages.*—Male servants, who reside in their master's house, are paid from L.10 to L.12 per annum. Female servants are paid from L.6 to L.7 per annum. The rate of a labourer's wages during summer is 1s. 6d. per day, and during winter 1s. 3d. per day, without victuals. Women, during summer, earn 9d. per day; during winter, they are seldom employed at outfield work. Masons, 2s. 6d. per day; carpenters, 2s.

The subjoined letter, written by the late John Maxwell, Esq. of Munshes, to the late W. M. Herries, Esq. of Spottes, and published in the appendix to the first and only report of the Stewartry Agricultural Society in the year 1810, shows the state of society, the value of land, and the condition of agriculture, in this parish and neighbourhood, upwards of a century ago. As the report alluded to had only a local circulation, and is now entirely unknown, it is thought proper, for the preservation of so valuable a letter, to insert it in the Statistical Account. Mr Maxwell was a native of this parish, and died at Munshes in 1814, at the age of ninety-four. \*

\* *Munshes, February 8, 1811.*

DEAR SIR,—The last time that Mr Young of Youngfield was here, he signified to me, as you had previously done, that John Christian Curwen of Workington Hall, Esq. had mentioned, that he was very desirous of knowing the state of agriculture in the stewartry of Kirkcudbright, and in Nithsdale, as far back as my remembrance goes.

I was born at Buittle, in this parish, which, in old times, was the fortress and residence of John Baliol, on the 7th day of February, old style, 1720, and do distinctly remember several circumstances that happened in the year 1723 and 1724. Of these particulars, the falling of the bridge of Buittle, which was built by John Frew in 1722, and fell in the succeeding summer while I was in Buittle garden seeing my father's servants gathering nettles. That same year many of the proprietors enclosed their grounds to stock them with black cattle, and, by that means, turned out a vast number of tenants at the term of Whitsunday 1723, whereby numbers of them became destitute, and, in consequence, rose in a mob; when, with pitchforks, gavellocks, and spades, they levelled the park-dikes of Barncailzie and Munshes, at Dalbeattie, which I saw with my own eyes. The mob passed by Dalbeattie and Buittle, and did the same on the estates of Netherlaw, Dunrod, &c., and the Laird of Murdoch, then proprietor of Kilwhaneday, who turned out sixteen families at that term. The proprietors rose, with the servants and dependents, to quell this mob, but were not of sufficient force to do it, and were obliged to send for two troops of dragoons from Edinburgh, who, upon their appearing, the mob dispersed. After that, warrants were granted for apprehending many of the tenants and persons concerned in the said mob. Several of them were tried, those who had any funds were fined, some

*Rent of Land.*—The average rent of land varies from 15s. to L.1, 10s. per acre, according to soil and situation; hill pasture from 3s. to

were banished to the plantations, whilst others were imprisoned, and it brought great distress upon this part of the country. At that period, justice was not very properly administered; for a respectable man of the name of M'Clacherty, who lived in Balmaghie parish, was concerned in the mob, and, on his being brought to trial, one of the justices admired a handsome Galloway which he rode, and the justice told him, if he would give him the Galloway, he would effect his acquittal, which he accordingly did. This misfortune, with what happened to the Mississippi Company in the year 1720, did most generally distress this quarter of the kingdom. It is not pleasant to represent the wretched state of individuals as times then went in Scotland. The tenants, in general, lived very meanly on kail, groats, milk, grass ground in querns turned by the hand, and the grain dried in a pot, together with a crook ewe now and then about Martinmas. They were clothed very plainly, and their habitations were most uncomfortable. Their general wear was of cloth, made of wauked plaiding, black and white wool mixed, very coarse, and the cloth rarely dyed. Their hose were made of white plaiding cloth sewed together, with single-soled shoes, and a black or blue bonnet,—none having hats but the lairds, who thought themselves very well dressed for going to church on Sunday with a black kelt-coat of their wife's making. It is not proper for me here to narrate the distress and poverty that were felt in the country during these times, which continued till about the year 1735. In 1725, potatoes were first introduced into this stewartry by William Hyland, from Ireland, who carried them on horses' backs to Edinburgh, where he sold them by pounds and ounces. During these times, when potatoes were not generally raised in the country, there was, for the most part, a great scarcity of food, bordering on famine; for, in the stewartry of Kirkcudbright and county of Dumfries, there was not as much victual produced as was necessary for supplying the inhabitants, and the chief part of what was required for that purpose, was brought from the sand beds of Esk in tumbling cars, on the Wednesdays, to Dumfries; and when the waters were high, by reason of spates, and there being no bridges, so that these cars could not come with the meal, I have seen the tradesmen's wives in the streets of Dumfries crying, because there was none to be got. At that period, there was only one baker in Dumfries, and he made bawbee baps of coarse flour, chiefly bran, which he occasionally carried in creels to the fairs of Urr and Kirkpatrick. The produce of the country, in general, was gray corn, and you might have travelled from Dumfries to Kirkcudbright, which is twenty-seven miles, without seeing any other grain, except in a gentleman's croft, which, in general, produced bear or big for one-third part, another third in white oats, and the remaining third in gray oats. At that period, there was no wheat raised in the country; what was used was brought from Teviot, and it was believed that the soil would not produce wheat. In the year 1735, there was no mill in the country for grinding that sort of grain, and the first flour mill that was constructed in these bounds, was built by old Heron at Clouden, in the parish of Irongray, some years after that date.

In these times, cattle were also very low. I remember of being present at the Bridge-end of Dumfries in 1736, when Anthony M'Kie of Netherlaw sold five score of five year old Galloway cattle, in good condition, to an Englishman, at L.2, 12s. 6d. each; and old Robert Halliday, who was tenant of a great part of the Preston estate, told me, that he reckoned he could graze his cattle on his farms for 2s. 6d. a head, that is to say, that his rent corresponded to that sum.

At this period, few of the proprietors gave themselves any concern aent the articles of husbandry,—their chief one being about black-cattle. William Craik, Esq. of Arbigland's father died in 1735, and his son was a man of uncommon accomplishments, who, in his younger days, employed his time in grazing of cattle, and studying the shapes of the best kinds,—his father having given him the farm of Maxwelltown to live upon. The estate of Arbigland was then in its natural state, very much covered with whins and broom, and yielding little rent, being only about 3000 merks a year.\* That young gentleman was among the first that undertook to improve the soil; and the practice of husbandry which he pursued, together with the care and trouble which he took in ameliorating his farm, was very great. Some of it he brought to such perfection, by clearing off all weeds and stones, and pulverized it so

\* 18 merks make L.1 Sterling, or L.12 Scots.

10s. per acre. A cow may be grazed during summer for L.3, and a sheep pastured at the rate of 6s. The average charge for feeding a full-grown sheep, on clover after harvest, and turnips during winter, is 3d. per week; young sheep, 2d. per week.

The gross amount of raw produce raised in the parish cannot be ascertained with any degree of accuracy.

*Mosses.*—The greatest part of the tract of flat land lying along the river Urr, from Craignair-hill to the march of Kirkennan, extending to nearly 400 acres, was, about seventy years ago, an unimproved moss, of little or no value. The late Mr George Maxwell of Munshes commenced its improvement, by cutting large open drains, and putting in a number of covered drains filled with heath. For many years, he kept a boat constantly employed in bringing up sea-shells, from extensive shell banks at the mouth of the river. The boat carried nine cart-loads, for which he paid 6s. These shells were discharged along the sides of the river; and he took his tenants bound to cart and apply to their respective farms a certain quantity annually. Their effects upon the moss were most astonishing. They destroyed the heath, and when ploughed, the ground from the outset brought good crops. The use of shells has been completely given up for that of lime. But many are of opinion, that, on wet land in particular, shells are a better, a more gradual, and a more lasting stimulant than lime.

The moss in question lay to the depth of many feet, on a blue clay. In some parts, the moss was removed by burning; but without this, the drainage and tillage have had the effect of consolidating and exhausting it; so that moss, formerly three or four feet deep, has nearly disappeared, and now the plough generally reaches the clay. Thus the moss and clay are incorporated into a fertile

completely, that I, on walking over the surface, sunk as if I had trodden on new fallen snow.

The estate of Arbigland was bought by his grandfather, in 1722, from the Earl of Southesk, for 22,000 merks.

In 1735, there were only two carts for hire in the town of Dumfries, and one belonging to a private gentleman.

About the years 1737 and 1738, there was almost no lime used for building in Dumfries, except a little shell-lime, made of cockle-shells, burned at Colvend, and brought to Dumfries in bags, a distance of twenty miles; and, in 1740, when Provost Bell built his house, the under storey was built with clay, and the upper storeys with lime, brought from Whitehaven in dry-ware casks. There was then no lime used for improving the land. In 1749, I had day-labourers at 6d. per day, and the best masons at 1s. This was at the building of Mollanee House,—the walls of which cost L.49 Sterling.

If you think that any thing mentioned here can be of any use or entertainment to Mr Curwen, I give you full leave to make the same known, with my best respects; and I am, Dear Sir, Yours sincerely,

(Signed) JOHN MAXWELL

To W. M. Herries, Esq. of Spottes.

black mould. John H. Maxwell of Munshes, the present proprietor, has, by a judicious system of tile-draining, and other extensive improvements, greatly ameliorated this soil, and added much to the beauty of the landscape.\*

About thirty-five years ago, the proprietors of the adjoining estates expended L. 500 in widening and deepening the drain which forms the outlet of Kenmore loch, on the confines of Keltion. This drain is upwards of a mile in length, and in some places consisted chiefly of rock. About sixty acres of moss, liable to be covered with water, were thereby converted into productive mea-

\* The following information was most obligingly communicated by Mr Train of Castle Douglas, well known to the world as a zealous antiquary:—

“A short time ago, some labourers, while draining a moss near Munshes,\* turned up, at the distance of several feet from the surface, the horns of a urus. Only one of these has been preserved. From its very large dimensions, however, some idea may be formed of the corresponding size of the animal. It measures fifteen inches in circumference round the but-end, and its present length is twenty-six inches, although it might have been originally thirty inches. It weighs seven pounds ten ounces. It is well known that the urus, which has now been ascertained by naturalists to be of the same species with the bison, was, at an early period, an inhabitant of this country. A horn of the urus was found near Dunkeld, and is now in the possession of the Duke of Athole. Two horns and a part of the head of the same animal were, some years ago, discovered in the parish of Borgue, and are now at St Mary's Isle, the seat of the Earl of Selkirk. But the only entire head and horns that seem to have yet been discovered, were dug out of a marl-pit on the estate of Castlewig, in Wigtonshire. This very interesting relic was presented by Mr Hawthorn, the proprietor, to Mr Train of Castle Douglas, who again presented it to Sir Walter Scott, and it may still be seen at Abbotsford. The interesting horn first alluded to is in the possession of Mr Train.

“In August 1843, there was discovered at the estuary of the river Urr, within high water-mark, and adjoining the farm of Nethertown, the fossil head of a bison, of the following dimensions:—

Length of the head,	-	38 inches,
Distance between the points of the horns,	-	32
Circumference of horn at the but,	-	13
Breadth of the head between the eyes,	-	11
Sockets of the eyes,	-	3

“In 1841, there was found at Barlochan a Roman coin of Constantine the Great, in a high state of preservation, which Mr Train has in his possession.

“In the summer of 1838, an urn or kirtvean was turned up by the plough on the farm of Breoch. This ancient repository of the ashes of the dead is made of baked clay, coarsely ornamented. It is nine inches in diameter, six inches deep, and nearly an inch thick. It contained a quantity of black ashes, and fragments of bones, which are carefully preserved by Mr Maxwell, the proprietor of Breoch. I have in my possession the only remaining part of the urn; but, since its exposure to the air, it has lost much of its calcined adhesiveness, as it crumbles on being removed, however slightly.

“In the spring of the year 1839, a labourer employed in clearing away a bank of earth on the margin of the water of Urr, near the site of the old castle of Buittle, once the residence of Edward Baliol, laid bare with his spade a large block of red sandstone, on which the figure of a regularly formed female countenance, surrounded by ornamental wreathes in bas-relief, is exquisitely carved. The peculiar quality of this stone shows that it must have been brought from a distance of nearly twenty miles to Buittle Castle, of which it evidently formed a part. It may now be seen in the garden of Mr Marchbank at New Buittle.

\* At Greenhill, on the estate of Munshes, parish of Urr.

dow. This expensive work was also undertaken with the view of gaining access to a bed of marl which the loch contains. But, though the water was nearly all carried off the surface of the loch, yet the moss was not laid sufficiently dry to admit of cartage, and this treasure has not hitherto been obtained.

At Barwhinnie loch, near Palnackie, six acres of moss, covered with water, were lately, by draining and cultivation, converted into meadow of the richest quality.

*Embankments.*—Twenty acres of carse land, on the banks of the Urr, and bay of Orchardton, subject to be flooded at high spring-tides, have been embanked, and rendered fit for cultivation. Land to a greater extent, on the estates of Orchardton and Almerness, was enclosed by embankments; but these having been ill constructed, or insufficiently executed, were soon broken down, and rendered useless.

*Quarries.*—A granite quarry was opened, about ten years ago, on Craignair-hill, by the Liverpool Dock Trustees, under favourable auspices, and this quarry for several years afforded occupation to nearly 200 individuals. A large quantity of well-dressed blocks, some of them weighing from seven to eight tons, were shipped to Liverpool. The difficulty, however, of finding blocks of sufficient size, and the great expense attending the operations, led to the abandonment of the undertaking. Were granite to come into more general use, it is very probable that this quarry would again be opened. Independent of the stone being of the first quality, its locality so near a sea-port enables it to be easily removed. The improvements in quarrying, splitting, and dressing are likely also to reduce the expense.

Craignair quarry still gives employment to a few hands for local purposes, such as gate-posts, monuments, tombstones, &c. The ornamental work and lettering of these, and also the polishing of slabs for lobby-tables, watch-seals, &c. show great improvement, and do credit to the workmen in the district.

*Minerals.*—Neither coal nor lime have been found in this parish: these are imported from the opposite coast of Cumberland. From partial workings that have been made on the estate of Kirkennan, there is every appearance that this property abounds with valuable iron ore.

*Fisheries.*—The salmon fisheries in the river Urr were, at a former period, of considerable value. The report of old inhabitants still alive is, that the fishing belonging to the estate of



Munshes, in favourable seasons, yielded, during the latter part of the season, from 15 to 20 salmon daily. On one occasion 50 were taken at one draught. And now, for years past, not one-half of 50 has been legally taken during the whole season. It is believed that all the fishings in the Urr would not, if now let, bring L.10 of annual rent.

It is difficult to say to what cause this failure is to be attributed. The stake-nets at the mouth of the river, on Balcary sands, in the parish of Rerwick, erected within the last twenty years, (in which a great number of salmon are now taken,) may in some measure account for it. The proprietors having little interest in the river fisheries, use no vigilance in protecting the breeding fish, so that poaching during the close season is carried on to a great extent. The application of lime to the land, the great extent of drainage, whereby marshes and swamps throw off their superfluous waters at once, and thus prevent the salmon in dry seasons from getting up the river, have all, it has been imagined, tended to injure the river fisheries.

No attempt has hitherto been made by any of the inhabitants to establish the white fishing, along our shores.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Castle Douglas is the nearest market-town. Palnackie is the only village in the parish. It is situated on the river Urr, and has a considerable trade with Liverpool, Whitehaven, Workington, Maryport, and other towns in the north of England; with Glasgow and Irvine, in the west of Scotland, and also with North America. Coals, lime, wood, slates, and merchant goods are imported. Farm produce, wood, fat cattle, and sheep, are exported. Trade has greatly increased at the port of Palnackie, since the former Statistical Account was written. The additional quantity of lime used for building and agriculture, the increased consumption of coals,\* the increasing prosperity of the town of Castle Douglas, of which Palnackie may be considered the port, and the general prosperity of the country, have led to this result.

The river Urr is navigable at the lowest neap-tides, from its confluence with the Solway to Palnackie, being a distance of four miles, by vessels drawing from 11 to 12 feet of water; and at high spring tides, by vessels drawing 16 or 17 feet of water. From Palnackie to Dalbeattie, a distance of four miles, it is navigable by vessels drawing 8 feet of water, at a tide rising 15 feet.

\* Fifty years ago only two, or at most three, cargoes of coals were imported. The average number of cargoes for the last three years is 124.

There is no regularly built harbour at Palnackie. On one side of the Creek where vessels used to lie, a breast-work, or temporary wooden quay, has been erected, where six vessels can be loaded or discharged at the same time. As the present accommodation is too small for the shipping, were the quay extended along the side of the river, and on the opposite side of the creek, it would give an additional impulse to the trade of this port. No harbour dues are exacted. One farthing per ton register is levied for river dues, viz. keeping up ring-bolts, mooring posts, and the river road. A custom-house officer is stationed here, and all vessels, except those engaged in foreign trade, are cleared, both inwards and outwards.

The following table shows the principal articles of import and export, to and from the port of Palnackie, for the three years from 1833 to 1836, distinguishing each year.

## Imports.

Years.	Foreign timber.		Coals.		Lime.		Slates.		Bone manure.		Merchant goods, &c.	
	Carg.	Feet.	Carg.	Tons.	Carg.	Tons.	Carg.	Tons.	Carg.	Bush.	Carg.	tons.
1833,	2	22,000	124	3720	125	62,500	12	406	4	8,000	25	870
1834,	2	22,300	122	3660	111	55,500	11	374	7	14,500	34	1020
1835,	2	24,000	126	4082	66	33,000	12	417	9	18,200	47	1400

## Exports.

Years.	Grain.		Oat-meal.		Potatoes.		Timber, oak-bark, sawn boards, &c.		Steam vessels.	
	Carg.	Quart.	Carg.	Tons.	Carg.	Tons.	Carg.	Tons.	Carg.	& aboop.
1833,	31	6975	2	85	16	640	57	2580		
1834,	42	9450	3	120	7	280	100	4000	15	5100
1835,	50	11,250	3	125	17	685	97	3680	22	7480

There are twenty vessels belonging to the river Urr, amounting in all to 1303 tons burthen; and navigated by 75 seamen.

A foot-runner, carrying the mail, passes every afternoon from Castle Douglas, through Palnackie to Dalbeattie, and returns in the evening.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church stands in the centre of the parish, and is accessible to all the inhabitants. It was built in 1819, at an expense of L.1000 Sterling, on an elevated situation adjoining to the burying ground, and of a construction more commodious for the people than the old church, as well as more ornamental to the neighbourhood. It is calculated to hold 400 sitters on the ground area; and the walls are of sufficient height to admit of galleries being erected at any future period, should the population increase. There is no other place of worship in the parish. The patronage of the church belongs to the crown.

The old church stood in the centre of the burying-ground, and bore evident marks of remote architecture; there are no records respecting the period of its erection. The east end of it, which comprehended the choir, was wider than the rest of the building, and was divided from it by a Gothic arch. The walls still remain entire, and are covered with ivy, forming a beautiful ruin.

In Symson's description of Galloway, it is said that "the kirk was of old called Kirkennen, and was situated upon the river of Urr, near the mouth of it; but for the more conveniency, was translated to the very centre of the parish, and called Bootle, because built in the baronie so called."

No vestige of the old church of Kirkennan now remains, though the place where it stood, is still pointed out. About seventy years ago, when digging the ground around it, handles of coffins and fragments of human bones were discovered. This burying-ground has long been subjected to the plough; it probably ceased to be used as a place of interment when the church was removed to Buittle, and a burying-ground was established there. No monuments or grave stones were erected at Kirkennan, at least, no fragments of any such memorials now remain; perhaps, at a remote period, these were not erected in country parishes. The oldest grave-stone in Buittle church-yard, was erected to the memory of a person who died in 1701.

The manse and offices were built in 1793, and have undergone frequent repairs.

The stipend, as modified in 1831 by the Court of Teinds, is 16 chalders, half barley and half meal; and since that period, the average amount of stipend, converted into money according to the fair prices of the stewartry, is L.211, 2s. 3½d. per annum.

*Education.*—There are two parochial schools in the parish. One of the teachers has a salary of L.28, 6s. 5d. The other has a salary of L.23, 0s. 2d. The teachers have commodious dwelling houses and school-rooms, built by the heritors in 1817. One of the teachers has a small garden free of rent; the other pays L.1 per annum for less than a rood of ground. The number of scholars attending the parochial schools, on an average, is about 130.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The average number of industrious poor on the roll of the kirk-session for the last three years is 18. There is no parochial assessment. The weekly collections in the church, with the interest of a small sum of money,

and the annual donations of a few charitable individuals among the non-resident heritors, have hitherto been sufficient for the support of the poor. The funds are divided quarterly, and the industrious poor receive on an average 8s. 6d. each. Besides the industrious poor, there are at present one pauper entirely supported out of the poor's funds, at the rate of L.7 per annum, and another supported by the heritors, at the rate of L.10 per annum.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Since the former Statistical Account was written, the parish has undergone considerable changes. Zeal for agricultural improvements has greatly increased, new implements of husbandry have been introduced, and better kinds of grain cultivated. Drainage has likewise been extensively practised, the system of turnip husbandry generally adopted, and greatly extended by the application of bone manure, and the land improved by the turnips being fed off with sheep. Plantations, by which the country is sheltered and adorned, have been greatly extended, the farm-houses have been rebuilt or enlarged, and are now neat and commodious, and the office-houses substantial and extensive. The comforts which the farmers enjoy, and their modes of living, have changed greatly for the better. The cottages and their inhabitants have also shared in the general improvement.

The increase of population, though not rapid, has been progressive. This increase is chiefly confined to the village of Palkackie, which, in 1808, contained only 7 houses and 29 inhabitants. It now contains 29 houses and 190 inhabitants.

Roads have been greatly improved within the last thirty years. New lines have been opened, and the old lines in many places altered, so as to avoid acclivities, and conduct them in a more level and convenient direction. Besides the turnpike roads passing through the parish, there are eighteen miles of parish roads kept in repair, from the Conversion money in lieu of Statute Labour. This amounts, at the maximum assessment, to L.51, 18s. 3d. Many of the most important of these roads were made at a great expense by heritors, through whose lands they passed, advancing money without interest, to be repaid when the road funds of the parish would admit. Twenty years ago, the debt thus created amounted to L.549. It has now been reduced to L.196, principally by the heritors having for many years assessed themselves with an extra sum of L.17, 6s. 1d. annually.

*Drawn up November 1836.*

*Revised February 1844.*

# UNITED PARISHES OF COLVEND AND SOUTHWICK.

PRESBYTERY OF DUMFRIES, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.

THE REV. ANDREW M'CULLOCH, MINISTER.

---

## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Extent.*—THIS parish extends in length, from east to west, along the coast of the Solway Frith, about 8 miles, and is, from north to south, 4 miles broad.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The surface is extremely rough and irregular. Broom, furze, and bramble spread with amazing rapidity. Many of the higher grounds are poor and shallow, owing to the soil being carried down to the valleys. These, however, are fertile and kindly, and produce grain of good quality and excellent pasture. Towards the east or Southwick side, many of the farms are in a high state of cultivation.

Besides a ridge of hills that run through the middle of the parish, there is a mountainous range covered with heath, and running to the large and conspicuous mountain of Criffel.

*Coves or Caves.*—There are a number of these along the “wild shores of caverned Colvend.” The principal of these is called the Piper’s cove, from a legend that a piper undertook to explore it. He carried his pipes with him, and continued to play under ground till he reached Barnbarrach, about four miles distant from its mouth. The sound then ceased, and nothing was ever heard again of the unfortunate minstrel. It is found, however, to be only 120 yards in length. There is a well in the middle, 22 feet deep. There are a number of fissures in the rocks along the shore. Close by the Piper’s cove, already mentioned, there is a rude natural arch, about 40 feet in height, called the Needle’s Eye. Another arch, bearing the same name, and lying more to the eastward, is more regularly formed though not so high.

*Hydrography.*—There are a number of small lakes in the parish. A strong chalybeate flows from one of the clefts. It was formerly used as a tonic in intermittent fever.

*Mine.*—A copper mine was at one time wrought. The ore was said to be rich, and the seam of a tolerable thickness.

*Woods.*—There is a considerable extent of natural wood in the parish upon the estates of Fairgirth and Barnhourie; and, of late years, great quantities of wood have been planted, principally oak and fir.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Parochial Registers.*—The earliest date of the parochial registers is 1716. They have not been regularly kept.

*Land-owners.*—The chief land-owners are, Mr Oswald of Auchencruive; Mr Crichton of Auchenskeoch; the Rev. Mr Maitland of Fairgirth; and Mr Stewart of Southwick.

*Antiquities.*—Coins have sometimes been dug up, principally of Edward I. of England, and Alexander III. of Scotland.

On the castle hill of Barcloy, there are the remains of a circular encampment. There is also a hill called the vitrified fort, and another encampment, of a circular form, not far from the manse.

There is a well called the Murderers' Well, near the Southwick Needle's Eye. According to tradition, it was named from the following circumstance: A set of border reivers came to levy blackmail on the peaceable inhabitants of Colvend. The parishioners rallied, and seizing the leaders of the foray, threw them down this rock to the well below.

At Achenskeoch, in Southwick, there are the ruins of a large building of the castellated form.

## III.—POPULATION.

The population in 1755, was	896
1794,	964
1801,	1106
1811,	1296
1821,	1322
1831,	1358
1841,	1495

Smuggling is now unknown. This coast, at one time, was notorious for this illicit traffic. There were a number of cellars below ground, where smuggled brandy was concealed, till the people were informed of its arrival. It was conveyed away in barrels slung over horses' backs, even as far as Teviotdale, by bands of men, prepared to defend themselves against the revenue officers.

## IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—Arable land lets about 10s. per acre. Of late years, a considerable quantity of waste land has been reclaimed.

The state of farm-buildings and enclosures has undergone a great change in the last forty years. Number of farms, 71; rent from L.10 to L.560.

*Live-Stock.*—There are fed in the parish between 40 and 50 score of black-faced sheep, and a few score of other kinds. The cattle are almost all of Galloway breed.

*Quarries.*—There are two mill-stone quarries in the parish; but they have not been wrought of late.

*Navigation.*—Coasting vessels are employed in shipping grain to Liverpool, Dublin, Glasgow, &c.; in the herring fishery; and in bringing coal and lime from the English side. There are annually exported from the parish, about 4000 bushels of barley, and 5000 stones of meal.

The Barnhourie sand-bank, so fatal to vessels, especially to those which are strangers to the coast, runs from the mouth of the Urr to the Nith. Nearer to the English side is another bank called the Robin Rig.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church is extremely ill situated for the united parishes. The nearest part of Southwick is four miles, and some farms are distant seven miles. It was built in 1771, and is too small for the present population.

The manse was built in 1804. There are about twelve acres of glebe, partly at Colvend, and partly at Southwick: value of both glebes about L.20 per annum. The teind was exhausted by last augmentation in 1824, and amounts to L.232.

There is a meeting-house belonging to the Secession, about seven miles from the parish church. It is ill attended, and would be still more so, if the parish church were centrally placed.

*Poor.*—There are on the poor's roll, at this time, 44 persons. The fund for distribution arises chiefly from the collections in church.

*February 1844.*

# PARISH OF KIRKGUNZEON.

PRESBYTERY OF DUMFRIES, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.

THE REV. JOHN CROCKET, MINISTER.

---

## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THE name of the parish has been spelled differently at different times. On the kirk bell, which was cast in 1674, it is named Kirkwinong. It is probable that the church was dedicated to St Winning. There is a spring near to the church which still bears the name of Winning's well.

*Boundaries, &c.*—The parish is bounded on the east by Newabbey; on the south, by Colvend; on the west, by Urr; and on the north, by Lochrutton. It is about 5 miles in length, and 3 in breadth.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The general aspect of the parish is hilly and uneven; but along the banks of the stream which flows through the middle of the parish, there is a very considerable portion of excellent holm and meadow land. The hills do not rise to any considerable height, and abound with grouse and black game. The river which intersects the parish, takes its rise from two lochs in the upper end of the parish of Newabbey. The length of its course is about nine miles. It joins the Urr about a mile below the village of Dalbeattie. The water abounds with trout of excellent quality; and salmon find their way up from the sea in considerable quantities, in the end of the season. I am afraid that few of them return, as there are some poachers on the banks who make a trade of killing them by night with leisters. The salmon were much more plentiful at one time than they are now.

*Mineralogy.*—The southern division of the parish abounds with granite, and some of the rocks are of stupendous size. The parish supplies the surrounding district with pillars for gates and steps for stairs, which, when finely polished, have a beautiful appearance, and are remarkably durable. The stones on the west



side of the parish are of blue whinstone, and are used for building dikes, which are the principal fences in the parish.

*Zoology.*—The cattle reared are of the Galloway kind. The farmers pay a good deal of attention to this stock, as they find from experience that it makes a better return than any other. On the coarse and high-lying lands, a number of Highland bullocks are wintered, as they are considered to be more hardy and more easily fed. They are generally bought at Falkirk in the end of harvest, and yield a pretty fair profit for a season's keep. There are few sheep now kept in the parish. There are only two farms where a shepherd is kept to look after the flock. The hills on the south and east of the parish abound with grouse and black game. When the present incumbent came to the parish in 1809, there was scarcely a blackcock to be seen. Now the black game outnumber the grouse, and if they continue to increase in the same proportion, they will banish the grouse from the ground. From occupying the low ground where they first hatched their young, they ascended to the higher hills, and have taken possession of the breeding grounds of the grouse. Hares and partridges are also plenty, as the most part of the parish has been strictly preserved for a number of years. There are also some pheasants, which have made their appearance, of late from two of the neighbouring parishes, where they were reared with some care.

The river is an excellent trouting stream, and in the deep water at the lower end of the parish there is a quantity of large pike and perch. Some very large trout about spawning time have been caught at the outlets of the lochs from which the water takes its rise. They are from four to six pounds weight, and are of excellent quality when they are in season.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Land-owners.*—There are only five proprietors in the parish. The principal heritor is Mr Maxwell of Terregles, whose rental amounts to nearly L. 3000 per annum. The rental of the other four proprietors is about L. 1000 per annum. There is no heritor residing in the parish.

*Parochial Register.*—The parochial register was begun in 1705, and has been very irregularly kept. Meetings of session, births, marriages, and collections are all jumbled together. There are some very curious insertions in the record, which strongly mark the inquisitorial spirit of our ancestors. The first volume of the record comes down to 1770; and from that period to 1800 the

record has been lost or mislaid. It has been regularly kept since that time, and the present incumbent, who was inducted in 1809, has acted as session-clerk, and saved to the poor the small sum which was formerly allowed as a salary.

*Antiquities.*—There are no antiquities in the parish that deserve to be particularly mentioned. Two ancient houses, now in ruins, were formerly the seats of Lord Herries, who made a conspicuous figure in the reign of Queen Mary. The one is in the middle of the parish, and the other at the southern extremity. They have both been places of strength, and it is easy to trace the moat which surrounded the castle of Corah. There is also a square tower at Drumcoltran, which had also been a place of strength. About thirty years ago, a matchlock was dug up in the neighbourhood of the tower. On the farm of Glaisters, belonging to Mr Maxwell, there was a very large cairn of stones, which was carried away some years ago, for building dikes. The dike built out of the stones which composed the cairn, extended to a mile in length; and in the bottom of the cairn, a number of urns were found filled with ashes. They immediately crumbled into dust when exposed to the air. This cairn was situated in a low-lying and level moor. Adjacent to this mound there is still a circle of large granite stones.

*Coins.*—Some years ago, a beautiful gold bonnet piece of James V. was found on the lands of Lochend. It was in a state of good preservation, and is now in the possession of the proprietor. Two years ago, a silver coin was found in the glebe, which appears to have been struck on the dispersion of the Armada.

*Modern Buildings.*—When the present incumbent came to the parish, there were only three slated farm-houses in it. Now there is an excellent onstead on almost every farm, and the tenants are most comfortably lodged. Mr Maxwell of Terregles has spared no expense in erecting most commodious houses of every description. The buildings are most substantial, built of granite, and well finished in every respect.

### III.—POPULATION.

According to the former Statistical Account the population was 520	
In 1811,	656
1821,	776
1831,	652
1841,	637

It is easy to state the causes of the decrease of the population. As formerly stated, new farm onsteads were erected throughout

all the parish. Formerly, there were cottages attached to each farm, where labourers resided. These have nearly all been swept away; and in some places where five or six families formerly resided, there is not a stone left to mark where the cottages stood. There is only one small village, which stands in the neighbourhood of the church. It contains the school-house, a smithy, a joiner's shop, two small shops for groceries and other merchandize. An excellent mill adjoins the village, which is constantly employed throughout the year in grinding meal and making pot barley.

The people, in general, are industrious, moral, and religious, Poaching, however, is carried on to a greater extent than it was formerly, owing to the facility of transporting the game to Liverpool by steam vessels. The quantity of game caught at night is incredible; and the gentlemen who are most strict in preserving it, generally suffer most, as the poachers invariably select their grounds for depredation.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—Lime is brought to the port of Dalbeattie, and is in great request at some distance from the harbour. As the lands in the vicinity of the port have been regularly limed for thirty years past, the farmers have in a great measure declined to use this manure to any great extent. The introduction of bone manure has created a great revolution in the mode of farming. The ordinary rotation is a crop of oats from ley land; 2d, green crop of potatoes or turnips; 3d, barley or oats; and, 4th, hay. The ground is then pastured and broken up according to the rotation. Wheat is seldom sown, as the farmers think that barley is fully as profitable a crop, and that it does not scourge the land so severely. Upon the whole, the system of agriculture has been greatly changed to the better, and the produce of the land doubled within these twenty years.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Means of Communication.*—The nearest post-office is the village of Dalbeattie, which is only four miles distant. There is a daily post to that place; but the most of the inhabitants receive their letters from Dumfries, which is nine miles distant. Two carriers to Dumfries pass through the parish twice in the week. The turnpike road is excellent, and there are three bridges on it, which are kept in good repair. Two coaches travel daily to Kirkcudbright, and return the same day to Dumfries.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church is situated in the centre of the parish, and is most conveniently placed. There are only four farms, which are distant four miles from the church. The church was built in 1790, and is in good repair. The sittings in the church are 224 in number. About 20 of these sittings are given free of expense to the villagers by Mr Maxwell. All the other sittings are also free. The manse was built in 1804, and is a most commodious and excellent house. It is kept in good repair; but as it was built and finished in the best manner at first, it has required very little outlay since its erection. The offices are good and commodious. The glebe consists of ten acres of good land. The stipend is the minimum, as the lands were valued very low, about the middle of the last century.

There are only four families of Dissenters in the parish: they attend the Secession meeting-house in the neighbouring parish of Urr. All the other families are regular attendants on the parish church. The average number of communicants is 180. There is an annual collection for that excellent institution, the Dumfries and Galloway Infirmary.

*Education.*—There is one school in the parish, situated near the church. The salary is the maximum, and L.4 are allowed out of the salary to a small school at the lower end of the parish, when a school is kept there, which has been the case for some years past. The farmers built a small house at their own expense, and the teacher generally lodges alternately with his employers. The average number of pupils at the two schools is 90. The parochial teacher has the legal accommodation and an excellent house.

All the children upwards of six years of age can read and write, and are well grounded in arithmetic.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The average number on the poor's roll is 8. The collections in the church are about L.12 per annum. The session have L.181 in the bank, the amount of donations from different individuals at different periods. In order that the poor might be more liberally provided for, the heritors have lately voluntarily assessed themselves in different sums, according to their respective valuations. Mr Maxwell, who has always paid particular attention to the poor, has been in the habit of granting L.10 annually for the relief of the labouring poor. Each pauper receives on an average L.1 per quarter; and their houses are rent-free.

*Fuel.*—The fuel commonly used is peats, but the mosses are nearly exhausted.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Since the former Statistical Account was written, the parish has been greatly improved. The arable land was then 3000 acres in extent, but now it amounts to 5000 or 6000 acres. A great many acres have been planted since that period, and the plantations will soon add much to the beauty of the country. The lands are all subdivided, and the fences kept in good order. The farm-houses, which were formerly in a miserable state, are now comfortable and commodious, and good offices are attached to them. They were built and finished at a great expense, and the expense was wholly defrayed by the proprietor. The people are now comfortably lodged and clothed, and their provisions are more plentiful and of a better kind than formerly. The tenants pay their rents half-yearly; and there is scarcely an instance of a farmer not paying every farthing of his rent on the day of collection. Formerly the farmers had great difficulty in paying the trifling rent which was then demanded; and it is well known that at the conclusion of the American war, many were in arrears for the by-gone rents of several years. The landlord and the factor were indulgent; and it is worthy of remark, that every shilling of these arrears was paid up, when the state of the country began to improve.

*February 1844.*

---

## PARISH OF TROQUEER.

PRESBYTERY OF DUMFRIES, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.

THE REV. WILLIAM THORBURN, MINISTER.

---

### L.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THE name of this parish was written Troquire in the records of the kirk-session of the parish about the year 1745, and Troqueir in the records of the Presbytery of Dumfries, in the year 1647. Perhaps it was so called from the two French words sig-

nifying the third quire, it being one of the three Catholic quires in the district, betwixt that of Lincluden on the one hand, and that of Sweetheart Abbey on the other.

*Extent, &c.*—It comprises a space of nearly 8 miles in length, and 5 miles in breadth; and has for its boundaries, Terregles on the north; Newabbey on the south; Lochrutton on the west; and the river Nith on the east. This river is wonderfully pure and transparent, considering that it has tides twice a day the whole length of its connection with Troqueer.

*Topographical Appearances.*—This parish may be said to be divided into three distinct parts by three ranges of elevations, which run almost at equal distances from each other, like waves of the sea. The first range, which rises with a gradual acclivity from the river, has been long in cultivation, and is remarkable for its beauty and fertility. As it lies within the burgh-roods of Maxwelltown, and contains a large portion of Maxwelltown, with some public nurseries and gardens of considerable extent, and several houses and villas of modern architecture, its enclosures bring a high rent, varying from L.3 to L.6 per acre. The intervening space between the first and second elevation is also highly cultivated and productive. The Cargen, which falls into the Nith towards the south-east, runs along the whole of this valley, much to its utility, but little to its beauty, as it is a dull, heavy stream. On the banks of this small river, otters are sometimes seen, which find shelter among the bulrushes and alder bushes which cover several parts of its margin.

The second elevation, which rises to a greater height than the first, and extends considerably farther to the south, is likewise under the plough, and yields crops of turnips and potatoes, hay and oats, wheat and barley of the best quality. It may be mentioned here, that some of the farmers on the higher grounds of this range have lately tried bone-manure with great success, and much to the ease of the horses which they employ in husbandry. A large portion of the space between the second and third ranges of hills is moss and meadow, both of which might be brought into a much more productive state by skilful cultivation. Indeed, were the whole of this moss, which at present yields only peats of an inferior quality, and whose surface is mostly covered with coarse heath, and frequently disfigured with bogs and quagmires, properly drained and levelled with the spade, it would, at no great distance of time, repay the expense, and, in the meanwhile, con-

tribute highly to the beauty of that part of the parish, and to the value of the conterminous parishes. On this moss the botanist will find no plants of the rarer kinds to gratify his curiosity. It is evident that the whole range of this moss, stretching several miles in length, was, at a remote period, a part of the firth, and covered twice a-day with the tides that flow up the Nith.

The third range of elevation, which is much higher than the second, and extends along the whole space of the parish, is under tillage on the sides and along parts of the summit; and the crops which it produces, though neither so early nor so rich as those that grow on the other two, are sufficient to repay the skill and industry of the cultivator. On several parts of this range are extensive and thriving plantations of fir, larch, ash, elm, oak, and other forest trees. None of these hills contain freestone, limestone, coal, or any other fossil entitled to the notice of the mineralogist. The rock of the whole of them is composed chiefly of mica slate, running into syenite, with occasional masses of granite shooting up through the strata beds.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Mansion-Houses.*—The properties in the parish entitled to notice, are those of Kirkconnel, Cargen, Mabię, Dalscairth, Galdielea, Terraughty, Carruchan, Cargenholm, and Mavis Grove. The mansion-house of Kirkconnel, the most extensive and valuable of these properties, stands remote from the public road and in sight of the river, is surrounded with a considerable extent of cropping and pasture land, and several thriving plantations, and has many accompaniments that invest it with an imposing aspect and an air of antiquity. A Catholic chapel is attached to it, appropriately seated and furnished. The mansion-house of Cargen is a large building; and though placed too near the corner of the field and the parish road, yet, as it commands a view of some of the beautiful windings of the river, it might, by a skilful extension of the lawn, and a tasteful grouping of the trees around it, be made a charming residence. On this estate is St Querdon's Well, which is the subject of a poem of considerable length, written by Mr White, late teacher of mathematics in the Academy of Dumfries. The mansion-house of Mabię is a modern, substantial, and well-arranged building, stands on an elevated situation, and commands an extensive and sublime land and water prospect. A saw-mill, lately erected on this estate, proves of great advantage, by bringing to market the surplus of fir trees, with which some of its woods

abound. The present proprietor, by draining a considerable portion of moss which lay directly in view of the mansion-house, and levelling it with the spade, and top-dressing it with compost, has greatly improved the spot by giving a green sward to what was formerly a disfiguring swamp. The mansion-house of Dalscairth is an elegant, spacious residence, standing on an extensive field, skirted with plantations of trees, with a waterfall in view of it, descending from a considerable height through a range of hanging wood, which renders it truly picturesque and romantic. The present proprietor has added greatly to the beauty of the place by converting, at a considerable expense, an extensive marsh in front of the house into a lake, the margin of which is laid out and varied in a very tasteful manner. The mansion-house of Goldielea is a delightful residence, embosomed in wood, has a lawn in front studded with clumps of venerable oaks, and is refreshed and enlivened with a perennial stream of water running over a transparent and pebbly bed. The mansion-house of Terraughty stands on a very delightful eminence, has a great extent of land-prospect, and a field in front that might, at a trifling expense, be converted into a lawn of singular beauty. The late proprietor made a garden, hot-house, green-house, and vinery, at a considerable expense, all of which are tastefully arranged, and highly productive. The mansion-house of Carruchan is surrounded with fields of rich soil highly cultivated; and is particularly interesting from the seclusion of its situation. The mansion-house of Cargenholm stands close to the river Cargen; has a warm southern exposure, with a full view of Criffell; and is a sheltered comfortable residence. On this property, there is a brick-kiln, the bricks of which are in great request, owing to their superior quality. The mansion-house of Mavis Grove is situated on a delightful rising ground near the river Nith, has a variety of large trees of different sorts ranged tastefully around it in a kind of amphitheatre, and is much admired for the amenity of its situation and the softness of its scenery. The villas of Summerville, Arundel, Bromland, Troqueerholm, Ryedale, Rosefield, Nithside, may be mentioned as all of them commodious, and some of them spacious and elegant.

*Eminent Men.*—This parish cannot boast of having been the birth-place or residence of any person entitled to notice, except, perhaps, the Rev. Mr Blackadder, who, about the period of the Reformation, was officiating minister; the particulars of whose life and banishment to the Black Rocks, where he died, are rescued



from oblivion by the published narrative of the Rev. Mr Crichton. It is said that Lagg, who was the terror of the Covenanters of his time over the whole south of Scotland, resided occasionally in this parish at a place which is called Hag-hall to this day.

*Antiquities.*—Close by the manse, and directly opposite to the spot, on the other side of the river, where Cummin's castle formerly stood, is a moat of a circular form and considerable height, where, according to oral tradition, the kings of Scotland, or their vassal chiefs who were entrusted with the keeping of it, used to hang offenders, and the most daring of their captives taken in battle, or in acts of pillage and robbery. The more probable conjecture is, that it was one of the circular mounds where the baron or judge of the district held courts of Justice in the open air.

*Parochial Registers.*—The register of proclamations begins April 1713; that of baptisms, 14th June 1734. The parish records begin about the same time. All of them are, for a long period, extremely meager and scanty. It may be mentioned here, that the records of the Presbytery of Dumfries commence 5th August 1647.

### III.—POPULATION.

Amount of population in 1801,	.	2774			
in 1811,	.	3409			
in 1821,	.	4301	—whereof in Maxwelltown,	3048	
in 1831,	.	4665	Do.	Do.	8601
in 1841,	.	4351	Do.	Do.	3230

### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Rental of the Parish.*—In the year 1752, the rental was ascertained before the Court of Session to be L.950; in the year 1791, it was nearly L. 5000; and in the year 1819, L. 12,000. And though landed property has fallen considerably in value of late, yet the rental of the parish may still be regarded as L. 11,000.

*Fishery.*—There is a fishery in the Nith, drawn on the Troqueer side of the river opposite to Dumfries, which furnishes salmon, grilse, and herlings, more than sufficient for the supply of the two burghs and the adjoining country.

### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Maxwelltown.*—Maxwelltown, formerly Bridgend, has a claim to a particular account. About twenty-one years ago, it was erected into a burgh of barony, with a provost, two bailies, and four councillors elected annually; and it was named in honour of Mr Maxwell of Nithsdale, its superior. It stands opposite to the burgh of Dumfries, with which it is connected by two bridges. It stands

on a bank or ridge circling along the edge of the river ; and with its burrow-roods comprises a space of nearly a mile in length, and half a mile in breadth.

The houses in the old part of Maxwelltown are built without any regard whatever to elegance, and run in streets awkwardly crooked and narrow. A more correct style of building has been adopted in the new part of the town. Many of the houses are neat and convenient, and the streets run in straight lines, and are of a sufficient breadth. The public road from London to Portpatrick, and from London to Glasgow and Edinburgh, by Thornhill and Elvanfoot, runs through Maxwelltown. By the former, the mail-coach to Portpatrick passes daily ; by the latter, a private coach runs every day to Glasgow, and a private coach runs to Edinburgh three times a-week.

Maxwelltown has a court-house of sufficient dimensions for accommodating the meetings of the Magistrates and Justices of the Peace of the district, and the courts of the Sheriff when he officiates in this quarter. Below the court-house is a jail, wherein delinquents apprehended within the burgh can be lodged till arrangements are made for removing them to Kirkcudbright, a distance of twenty-seven miles, whence they are to be sent back to stand their trial at Dumfries ;—an inconvenience that might easily be remedied, by incorporating Maxwelltown with Dumfries in all matters of police. As Maxwelltown has no police act, its streets are ill lighted at night, there being as yet only a few lamps in it, which have been erected and are still supported solely by the voluntary contributions of some of its wealthier inhabitants.

Two founderies have lately been established at Maxwelltown, both of which have a great run of employment. It has long had a waulk-mill ; a die-house ; two roperies ; a brew-house ; two tanneries ; four nurseries, two of which have hot-houses, in which grapes and some of the other rarer fruits are reared in great perfection ; and a damask manufactory, celebrated for the beauty and elegance of the fabrics. The water-mills belonging to Dumfries stand on the Maxwelltown side of the river ; which, by the superior style in which they are fitted up and worked, gave great satisfaction to the community. An observatory, which was formerly a windmill, stands on the top of the Corbely hill, forming a striking object over an extensive range of district. The butcher-market of Maxwelltown has, for some time past, taken the lead of that of Dumfries, and affords a daily supply of excellent beef and

veal, mutton and lamb, in their respective seasons. A Dispensary has lately been opened in Maxwelltown, for the benefit of the poorer classes of its inhabitants, under the superintendance of a young medical practitioner.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church and the manse are situated within the burrow-roods of Maxwelltown, at a distance of a mile from the most crowded part of the population. The church is capable of accommodating 840 sitters. A chapel of ease was lately built in the centre of the burgh, through the influence of the principal lauded proprietor, and others. The Crown is the patron of the parish.

The manse was built thirty years ago. Its situation is on the banks of the Nith, and it commands not only an extensive view of the Nith, but of Criffell in the adjoining parish, and of Skiddaw and some of the other lofty hills in the north of Cumberland. The stipend is L.322, 12s. money, the teinds having been surrendered by the whole of the heritors, the titular excepted, whose estate pays nearly two chalders of victual, the one-half meal and the other barley. The glebe contains nearly eleven acres, all of good quality.

A chapel of ease was some years ago erected in Maxwelltown, capable of accommodating 1600 sitters; the stipend of the minister is L.150 without a manse.

*Education.*—There are three schools in the landward part of the parish, the principal of which is the parish school, which has L.30, 16s. of salary attached to it, with L.2, 10s. of interest, arising from a mortified sum for teaching the children of the cottagers who reside on the estate of Dalscairth, and a comfortable dwelling-house and an excellent garden. The second school has a salary of L.15 from the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, with L.9, 12s. from the heritors in compensation for the keep of a cow summer and winter; and a large garden, a suitable dwelling-house, and a sufficient quantity of peats for fuel, are furnished by the surrounding tenants gratis. The third school is supported by the tenants on the estate of Cargen, who pay the teacher wages, and give him bed and board in their houses alternately. In these three schools, about 180 scholars are taught annually.

There is only one endowed school in Maxwelltown, with a salary of L.9, 12s. paid by the landward heritors, and L.4, the interest of L.100 of mortified funds. It has also the benefit of the

interest of some smaller sums bequeathed by a few individuals. The teacher has the usual wages, but no dwelling-house. Two otherschools are taught in Maxwelltown, the masters in which have no emoluments but the wages. The number of scholars in these three schools may be 250.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The poor on the roll may be 100. The funds for their support, arising from proclamations, interest of mortified funds, mortcloth fees, collections at the parish church, donations, and one-third of the chapel collections, amount to about L.140 annually, which affords but a miserable pittance for the support of so many, and is one proof among a thousand others, that a provision for the aged and infirm should, in no country, be left to the unsteady and capricious impulse of compassion, but be enforced by positive statute. Indeed, in a parish such as Troqueer, where many of the heritors do not reside, and several of those who are resident attend other places of worship, and contribute nothing to the poor on the roll, a poor's rate, with all its predicted evils, would, if properly managed, be the cheapest, the fairest, and the most effectual mode of maintaining the native poor.

*Fuel.*—Coal is the fuel chiefly used by the inhabitants, which is partly conveyed by land from Sanquhar, a distance of twenty-seven miles; but chiefly by sea from the coal-pits on the opposite coast of England. The first is sold by weight, the last by measure, and almost always at a moderate price.

## PARISH OF TERREGLES.

PRESBYTERY OF DUMFRIES, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.

THE REV. GEORGE HERON, MINISTER.

THE REV. DAVID DICKIE, *Assistant Minister.*

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THE name of this parish is generally understood to be derived from *Terra ecclesiae*, or the French, *Terre d'Eglise*. This derivation accords with the circumstance which is fully ascertained, that the lands in the parish originally belonged to the

abbey at Lincluden, (an ecclesiastical establishment), which is within its bounds, and situated on the banks of the river Cairn.

*Extent, Boundaries, &c.*—Terregles is situated within the stewardry of Kirkcudbright, and is within two miles of the town of Dumfries. It extends from east to west about 5 miles, and at an average is about 3 in breadth. Its boundaries are, Holywood on the north; Troqueer on the south and east; Lochrutton on the west; and Irongray on the north-west.

The church is situated as nearly as possible in the centre of the parish, and the manse about a mile to the south-east. To the west, there is a beautiful range of hills, part of which is covered with wood, and part affords excellent pasturage for sheep and cattle. From the top of these hills is seen, in great beauty and splendour, the town of Dumfries, which, to the eye of the beholder, lies immediately below, and the vale along the Nith, which, from the windings of the river, and the variety of the scenery around, is an object of great attraction and interest, together with a portion of the Solway and the Cumberland hills in the distance.

*Hydrography.*—The only river or rather stream besides the Cairn, which separates the parish from that of Holywood for about two miles, is the Cargen. Although this stream be of small extent, yet, in proportion to its size, it affords excellent fishing both of salmon and trout. The Cargen joins the Nith, about two miles below the town of Dumfries.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Land-owners, &c.*—The principal proprietor in the parish is Marmaduke C. Maxwell, Esq. of Terregles. The Hon. Mrs Young of Lincluden; John Walker, Esq. of Woodlands; and James Biggar, Esq. of Maryholm, also hold properties in the parish. The estates belonging to the two last-mentioned are situated principally in other parts of the county. All the heritors are resident with the exception of three. There are twenty-one farms which yield each the yearly rental of L. 50 and upwards. It may be mentioned, that Marmaduke C. Maxwell, Esq. the principal heritor in the parish, is of the ancient family of Nithsdale, the title of which was forfeited in the year 1715. This family is Roman Catholic. In consequence of the great and judicious improvements which are going on, and the regular employment afforded to the labouring class, the residence of this family in the parish is of the utmost benefit. Their attention to the tenants on the

estate, and their condescension and liberality to the poor and the working population, have endeared them to all in the neighbourhood. This branch of the family of Nithsdale claims the dormant title of Lord Harris.

*Parochial Registers.*—The registers of the parish go no farther back than the year 1714, and, generally speaking, have been very imperfectly kept.

*Antiquities.*—The ruins of the Abbey of Lincluden are situated on the banks of the river Cairn, a little above its junction with the Nith. This church or abbey originally belonged to the Benedictine nuns. It was built during the reign of Malcolm IV. about the year 1150, by Uthred, the father of Roland, the Lord of Galloway. In the year 1400, this ancient piece of architecture was changed from the character it originally possessed, in consequence of the irregular habits of the nuns, into a temporal barony (M<sup>c</sup>Diar-mid's Picture of Dumfries-shire.) About the beginning of the sixteenth century, it became the property of the Nithsdale family, and at present is in the possession of Marmaduke C. Maxwell, Esq. Towards the east end of the chapel, is the tomb of Margaret, daughter of Robert III. and wife of Archibald Earl of Douglas, on which is an inscription, but so much defaced that it cannot now be deciphered. The ruins are in a very dilapidated state; and although the whole must have been once a building of much grandeur and magnificence, its beauty is completely obscured. There are many farms in the neighbourhood which have obviously derived their names from this ancient establishment, for example, Nunnery, College, &c.

Adjoining to the church there is an old building which now constitutes the burying-place of the Maxwell family. It was built in the year 1568, and formed part of the church at that period used as a Roman Catholic place of worship. There are many curiosities connected with this remnant of the olden times. Amongst others, is a massy and curiously carved chair made of oak, which originally belonged to the provost of Lincluden Abbey, after that institution was changed into a temporal barony. In the absence, however, of a distinct knowledge of the character of these ancient relics, and the particular purposes to which they were once applied, little can with any certainty be said of them. This remnant of the Catholic times retains to this day the name of the choir, and is understood to have formed the orchestra or place set apart for

the singers in the service of the Romish church. It is now very much decayed.

Upon the farm of Terregles-town, about a mile to the east from the church, there was at one time a village of considerable extent. Its population is said to have amounted to about 300. The pavement of the street is still seen, and extends a considerable length. In the immediate neighbourhood there is a place called the Gallows-hill, where, according to tradition, criminals were executed at an early period.

### III.—POPULATION.

The population in 1790, was	510
1821, -	651
1831, -	606
1841, -	564

### IV.—INDUSTRY.

The estate of Marmaduke C. Maxwell, Esq. can boast of some of the most scientific and enterprising farmers to be found in the south of Scotland.

*Wages.*—The average amount of wages for labourers is 1s. 6d. per diem during summer, and 1s. 4d. during winter. Farm-servants (unmarried) receive from L. 10 to L. 12 per annum, and females from L. 5 to L. 6. Married men receive from L. 20 to L. 22 per annum, together with a free house and other perquisites. Others again receive from L. 10 to L. 12 and 52 stones of meal, and 3 or 4 stones of barley.

### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The manse is a substantial and commodious building, and is in a state of good repair. The present church was built about thirty years ago. It is badly constructed, cold, damp, and in every respect uncomfortable. The burying-ground around the church is enclosed by a substantial stone wall, and within are several neat and handsome tombstones or monuments.

The stipend derived from the teinds amounts to L. 110, 12s. 4d., besides L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements. The remaining L. 39, 7s. 8d. is obtained from the Exchequer.

The patronage of the parish originally belonged to the Nithsdale family, and, subsequently, was exercised by the late Duke of Queensberry. At present, it is in the possession of the Duke of Buccleuch.

*Education.*—The parochial is the only school in the parish. A new and commodious school-house has lately been erected.

*Poor.*—At present there are nine upon the poor's roll. The sum of L. 446 is vested in the session for behoof of the poor, and is lying at interest in the hands of the principal proprietor. The collections at the church amount annually to about L. 14. Besides this, there is a sum distributed amongst the poor not upon the roll, and which affords a most seasonable relief to many during the winter months.

*February 1844.*

---

## PARISH OF KIRKBEAN.

PRESBYTERY OF DUMFRIES, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.

THE REV. THOMAS GRIERSON, A. M., MINISTER.

---

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THERE are various opinions as to the etymology of *Kirkbean*, some so constrained and far-fetched as to be unworthy of notice. That which appears most natural and satisfactory is, that, like many other names of places, this word unites the comparatively modern term *kirk* to the Gaelic term *Ben* or *Bien*, signifying mountain, thus denoting the situation of the former at the base of the celebrated mountain Criffell.

*Extent, &c.*—The length of this parish is about 6 miles, and the breadth may be said to average 3. The number of square miles, according to Ainslie's map of the county, is 14.89 parts.

*Boundaries.*—It is bounded on the north-east, east, south, and south-west, by the Solway Frith, comprising about ten miles of sea coast, and in other directions by a rugged mountainous district, terminated on the northern extremity by Criffell, and gradually decreasing in height towards the vale of Southwick, on the south-west. The parishes that come in contact with Kirkbean are New Abbey to the north and north-west, and the united parish of Colvend and Southwick to the south-west and west. The *embouchure* of the Nith separates it from Caerlaverock on the north-east and east.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The height of Criffell above the sea level is about 1900 feet. It is generally stated in tables of



heights to be the highest mountain south of the Lowther and Queensberry range, though there is good reason to suspect some of the mountains towards the source of Loch Doon, in the parishes of Kells and Minnigaff, to be considerably more elevated, as also the Cairnsmuir mountains.

In various directions, the view from the summit of Criffell is very extensive. Annan, Carlisle, Dumfries, and Castle-Douglas are distinctly visible, and also the Isle of Man. In very clear weather, Goatfell in Arran may be discerned, rearing its conical head over Carsphairn church, and it is affirmed that the mountains in North Wales and the north of Ireland are also visible in very favourable circumstances.

From the Criffell ridge of hills, the parish inclines gradually towards the shore, presenting a rich, beautiful, and extensive prospect, fields well enclosed, and in a high state of cultivation, with several clumps and belts of planting. Beyond the Frith, which is here about ten miles broad, are seen the mountains of Northumberland, with the rugged peaks of Cumberland and Westmoreland, terminating the scene in that direction, and exhibiting an outline of bold and fantastic magnificence which cannot fail to be highly interesting to all who have a taste for sublime scenery.

The coast in this parish is generally low and sandy, though it is varied by precipices of a considerable height at Arbigland, where some singular rocks are to be seen, among which the natural Gothic arch, called the Thirl Stane, is the most conspicuous. The bay of Carse is the only one of importance. The sands uncovered at ebb-tide are very extensive, and render the navigation particularly dangerous. The principal headlands are Borrow Point and Saturness.

*Climate, &c.*—The climate is considered very salubrious. Owing to the Nith, the water is by no means very salt above the mansion-house of Arbigland; but, below that, the saltness is greatly increased, and at Saturness it is considered admirably adapted for sea-bathing. The depth of the channel along the coast varies from three to five fathoms in ordinary tides. The tides flow very rapidly, insomuch that vessels getting aground upon the banks are frequently upset and wrecked. The flood-tide has been known to tumble a ship's anchor over and over. The channel of the Nith is liable to very frequent changes, by some of which, enormously large trunks of oak trees are occasionally exposed, which, though they must have lain prostrate for many cen-

turies, are converted by some into field rollers, and even into tables and ornamental furniture of various descriptions.

*Mineralogy.*—The rocks consist of granite, limestone, and a species of very coarse sandstone. The whole of the Criffell range is composed of white granite and syenite, with veins of porphyry and strata of slate. The limestone occurs on the shore, and in the more level portion of the parish, where it is a member of the coal formation as it reposes on the rocks of the Criffell. A lime kiln was lately erected at Saturness. The lime is not of the best quality, though masons allow it to be very well adapted for building—being of a coarse, sandy nature, it requires very little sand to render it fit for their use. Coal has been dug for, and indications of it have been observed, but not so promising as to encourage farther outlay. On the coast at Arbigland such fossil remains occur as are frequently met with in the carboniferous limestone formation.

The rocks there all dip towards the sea, and at various angles, from nearly horizontal to vertical. Upon these are to be found vast rolled masses of granite, for whose appearance, lying as they do upon lime and sandstone, and totally detached from granite fields, it is very difficult satisfactorily to account.

*Soil.*—The soil is various, and is, generally, very productive. The steep cultivated fields lying upon granite, require more manure, and are not reckoned so rich and fertile as those that are more level, and rest upon limestone. After a long process of manuring, however, they may be reckoned equal, if not superior. Much has been done, and much is still doing in the way of draining the low-lying farms, which is greatly improving their appearance, and adding to their value; and a considerable tract of land, called *merse*, has been protected from the inroads of the sea by a very strong and costly embankment, raised by the late Mr R. A. Oswald for that purpose, whose spirit and skill as an agriculturist are not to be surpassed. The same process might be most advantageously resorted to in the Bay of Drum, at the northern extremity of the parish.

*Zoology.*—The principal fishes are, cod, flounder, salmon, and skate. Herrings are very rarely got, and haddocks never; though, in the deep sea off this coast, not only these fishes, but soles, turbot, &c., might no doubt be caught, were the demand such as to call forth enterprise. The salmon go up the river to spawn in the month of October, and return in April and March.

The mussels on this coast are large and fine. Oysters have never yet been got in abundance. Mussels and shrimps are the only fish of this description which can be regarded as useful, in an economical point of view. They are sometimes carried to Dumfries for sale, but generally consumed at home.

*Woods.*—There is little, if any, natural wood here; but all common kinds seem to thrive well in the plantations. These, however, are neither so large nor numerous as either to shelter or beautify the parish to the extent which could be desired. At Arbigland there are a good many very large and fine silver firs, some of them perhaps as much so as any in Scotland, though the largest were destroyed in the great storm, 7th January 1839.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Eminent Men.*—Admiral John Campbell was son of the Rev. John Campbell, minister of this parish. He was born 1719, and, while very young, sent to sea in a small coasting vessel, where his services were so little appreciated, that he was only employed in the meanest offices. Afterwards, by distinguished bravery and skill, he rose to the highest honours of the navy, attended the celebrated circumnavigator, Anson, in his voyage, commanded several of the largest and finest ships in the British navy, and died 1790. An inscription upon the bell in the parish church shows it to have been the gift of his father.—John Paul, afterwards notorious as Paul Jones, was also a native of Kirkbean. His father was gardener at Arbigland. The cottage in which they lived was repaired, at the expense of Lieutenant Pinkham of the American navy, an enthusiastic admirer of our celebrated countryman, whom he appeared to rival in professional energy, and far surpasses in many of those points which add true dignity and worth to the human character.—The late Dr Edward Milligan, distinguished as a lecturer on medical science in Edinburgh, likewise owes his birth to this parish. Of this man's energy and success as a teacher it would be difficult to speak too highly. His father, who died lately, was a stone mason. He himself was for a considerable time a shoemaker. As a linguist and mathematician, he was in a great measure self-taught, though he had for a short time the advantage of being instructed by the Rev. Mr Murray, parish schoolmaster. Having made some money in his humble profession, he went to college, and, after much patient toil in teaching himself and others, acquired not only great eminence among the learned, but a considerable fortune in money,

by means of which, at his death, his relations have been comfortably provided. For several years previous to his death, he was stone blind; but such was his strength of mind, that his cheerfulness continued unimpaired, and he continued his course of lectures with great success till his last illness. He died in 1833, aged forty-seven. Dr Milligan is a striking instance, among many, of what can be achieved by a decided determination to literary and scientific pursuits, in the face of much discouragement and difficulty.

*Land-owners.*—The only land-owners are, James Oswald, Esq. M. P., of Auchencruive; D. H. Craik, Esq. of Arbigland; and Mark Stewart, Esq. of Southwick. Of these, Mr Craik is the only resident heritor.

*Parochial Registers.*—The parish registers do not extend farther back than 1714; and, till 1824, have been very irregularly kept.

*Antiquities.*—As to antiquities, Kirkbean has little to boast. There are the remains of a castle, or rather a castellated house, at Wreaths; and till of late, there was a similar edifice at Cavens, which was once the property of the Regent Morton, and inhabited occasionally by him. At Borrow Point, there are the remains of a moat and ditch, called M'Culloch's Castle, overlooking the Solway, the former use of which does not appear to be understood; and at Preston, formerly the property of Lady Glenorchy, distinguished for her piety, there is a stone cross, showing where a considerable village once stood. Some time ago, this village is said to have been inhabited by twenty-four tenants; now it is occupied by only one.

*Modern Buildings.*—The church was built according to a plan of William Craik, Esq., then of Arbigland, in 1776, and is elegant, convenient, and sufficient. The area has lately been fitted up neatly with pews, at the expense of the minister, for the accommodation of such villagers as had no claim otherwise. A very handsome tower, crowned by a dome, has been recently erected by subscription of those interested in the parish, and a clock presented by Mr Craik of Arbigland. The entire building, inside and outside, may be regarded as a model for a country parish. Arbigland is one of the handsomest mansion-houses in the county, and kept in the best possible repair, as well as the grounds, by its present amiable and much respected owner. Cavens, a seat of Mr Oswald, though much less imposing in ap-

pearance, is also very tastefully kept, and highly ornamental to the neighbourhood.

### III.—POPULATION.

The population of Kirkbean is about 890. The number of inhabitants residing in villages, of which there are four, is about 400. The remainder are occupiers of the farms and cottages throughout the parish.

The yearly average of births for the last seven years is 20; of deaths, 13; of marriages, 6. There may be about 30 people above seventy years of age.

The farmers, as a body, are as sober, steady, and skilful a set of men, as are anywhere to be found. In point of professional intelligence, they would do credit to any district in Scotland.

### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—The number of acres at present under tillage may be about 3680 Scotch, or 4623 imperial acres. There may be about as many more, comprehending the mountainous district, that never have been cultivated. About 600 Scotch or 758 imperial acres might, with a profitable application of capital, be much improved by cultivation,—part of which is at present undergoing a course of cropping, with a view to its being laid down in permanent pasture; but the greater part is a sandy merse, covered to a great extent with whins, and would require frequent cropping, in order to keep it in a profitable state. There are, however, about 60 Scotch acres of rich merse land that might be brought into constant tillage by embanking, and would pay well for the capital expended, if judiciously done. There are about 673 Scotch, or 845 imperial acres, not in subdivisions, mostly lying along the shore.

*Rent of Land.*—The average rent of the land under tillage is about L. 1, 3s. 6d. per Scotch, or 18s. 8½d. per imperial acre. Some of the land being very light and sandy, and a portion of it high, the rent of such land is low, but the good land gives a fair rent; some of it as high as L. 2, 10s. per Scotch acre, and a good deal about L. 1, 10s. per do., while a great part of the bad land does not give more than 12s. 6d. There is almost no grazing land let for cows, but what is let gives L. 4 or L. 5; and good land let in grass for the season, brings about L. 2 per Scotch acre. No sheep are grazed by the year. When pastured on clover after hay, the charge is 3d. per week for each sheep, and 2d. for each lamb of six months old. Such land, if there has been a fair

crop of clover or seeds, may pay about 15s. per Scotch acre. The average rent of the grazing land which never comes under the plough, is about 9s. 6d. per Scotch, or 7s. 7d. per imperial acre. A considerable portion of it being bad, is not worth more than 4s. per Scotch acre, although some of the best grazing land, which is reserved for permanent pasture, is let at L.2, 2s.; the very best is let at L.3. The meadow land averages about L.1 per Scotch, or 16s. per imperial acre, a great part of it not being good.

The hill pasture upon Criffell carries a good stock of Cheviot ewes, and rents upon a lease at about 4s. 9d. per ewe, and 2s. 8½d. per Scotch, or 2s. 2d. per imperial acre.

*Wages.*—The rate of wages paid to good ploughmen, without washing, is about L.11, 10s. per annum; and to benefit our married men, about L.8 in cash, a house, 65 imperial stones of oatmeal, 3 bushels of barley, 2 tons of potatoes, and 14 measures of coals, amounting in all to about L.19. The day-labourers are paid 1s. 4d. per day in summer, and 1s. 2d. for three months in winter; women, 9d. per day throughout the year, harvest excepted. There are very few day-workers in harvest, the harvesters being generally hired for the whole harvest. Men get L.2, 2s., women, L.1, 12s., with board and lodging.

*Husbandry.*—There are two dairy farms in this parish, which keep about 40 Ayrshire cows each. No more of their calves are kept than are required for keeping up the stock.

Upon the whole, great attention has of late been paid to the improvement of all kinds of cattle, which are generally in a state highly creditable to their owners.

The mode of husbandry followed is a five years' rotation upon good arable land, and a six or seven years' rotation upon what is inferior. The turnip system has recently been introduced, and is practised very successfully, and to a great extent. Bone and other artificial manure has enabled the farmers to raise a third more grain and pasture than could have been raised fourteen years ago.

The general duration of leases is eighteen years. The farmhouses and steadings are very commodious, and in good repair. The fences are generally good and well kept. The obstacles to improvement are not great, as the farmers generally are fit for their farms, which are always taken at a money rent, with the understanding that the landlord is not to expend any money

farther than the necessary improvement upon houses required at entry. The rents of the farms in this parish may vary from 60 to 600 guineas per annum, but many of them will require a considerable reduction, unless there is an increase in the price of farm produce.

*Produce.*—The average amount of raw produce may be estimated nearly as follows:—42 bushels per Scotch acre of oats, 40 bushels per acre of barley, 30 bushels per acre of wheat, which, at the average price of late years in this part of the country, may be stated at 2s. 6d. per imperial bushel of oats, 3s. per do. of barley, and 5s. 6d. per do. of wheat; L.6 per acre, oats; L.6 per do. barley; and L.8, 5s. per do. wheat, all Scotch measure, which gives a gross amount for all grain raised in the parish.

Oats,	L.4164	0	0	
Barley,	2088	0	0	
Wheat,	2158	0	0	
				L.8405 0 0

Average gross amount of potatoes at 1s. per cwt. 8 tons per acre,	900	0	0
Of turnips consumed on the land by sheep, (The turnips would give double if pulled, and not eat off upon the land.)	900	0	0
Of hay, at 200 stones of 24 lbs. per acre, 6d. per stone, or L.5 per acre,	1000	0	0
The meadow hay will average in its present state about 120 stones per acre, at 4d. per stone, or L.2 per acre,	960	0	0
The land pastured by cattle and sheep is so very unequal, that it is almost impossible to arrive at any thing like accuracy, but may be stated at	2900	0	0

Total yearly value of raw produce, L.13,765 0 0\*

The navigation connected with Kirkbean is very limited. Only two or three small vessels, of about fifty tons burthen, belong to parishioners. These are engaged in the coal and grain trade with the opposite coast of Cumberland, Liverpool, and Glasgow. A wooden pier has lately been erected at Carsethorn for the accommodation of the Liverpool steam-packet, which makes two voyages weekly in summer, and one in winter, and has been of great advantage to the farmers for conveying their fat stock, &c. to a better market than is to be found nearer home. All vessels from Dumfries, when meeting with contrary winds, anchor in the bay

\* For the above agricultural observations and calculations, which are necessarily much abridged, the public is indebted to Mr Paterson in Preston, and Mr Smith in Ladyland, two of the most active and intelligent farmers in the south of Scotland. It would also be unpardonable, were it not here stated, that this parish, which, in an agricultural point of view, ranks among the first in the district, was early imbued with a taste for improvement, by the talents and philanthropic energy of the late William Craik, Esq. of Arbigland, who devoted a very long life to the unwearied endeavour to promote the interests of the parish and of his country at large.

of Carsethorn; while vessels bound for Dumfries lie here, until they are enabled to proceed by the spring-tides.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Town.*—The market-town for Kirkbean is Dumfries, twelve miles distant from the church, and fourteen from the centre of the parish. There are four small villages. That of Kirkbean is one of the most beautiful and interesting anywhere to be seen. Its situation in a simple rural valley, surrounded by small, well-wooded knolls, is altogether delightful, —an apt representation of Goldsmith's

“Sweet Auburn, loveliest village of the plain.”

The beauty of this village is much owing to the liberality of the late occupier of Cavens, Lady Mary Oswald, who gave prizes annually to those villagers who kept their cottages in good order; and also to the present proprietors, who continue this system.

*Means of Communication.*—There is a daily post excepting Sunday, and a turnpike road to Dumfries.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church is five miles distant from the remotest farm-house, and four from the village of Saturness. Still it is well placed for the accommodation of the principal part of the population. There is abundance of room in the church for all church-going people. The manse was built in 1798. The glebe, comprehending garden and the site of manse and offices, does not exceed ten acres. They are all in good order. The stipend is, as nearly as possible, L.180 per annum. The teinds are exhausted. About L.160 are paid in money, the remainder in bear or oatmeal at the fiars prices. There are not above four families of old Dissenters in the parish, besides two Catholic families. To this number may now be added about fifteen families who have lately joined the Free Kirk, though some of their members still adhere to the Establishment. The church is very well attended. The average number of communicants, 240. Average amount of church collections per annum, L.30. Probable average of collections annually for religious and charitable purposes, L.10.

*Education.*—There are two regularly kept schools. One parochial, with two chalders of salary, and the interest of L.608, 4s., mortified for a free school or schools, with a good dwelling-house and garden. At this school thirty children of the poorer order are taught gratis. The other school is distant from the parochial school three miles. The teacher in it has the interest of L.400, mortified



fied money, besides wages from those who can afford to pay. Another sum of L. 100 has been allotted for this school by the writer of this article.

No additional schools are required. There is one public subscription library, kept by the parish schoolmaster. There is a sum of L.350 mortified by certain charitable individuals for the support of the poor.

*Poor.*—The number of poor on the roll averages twenty. They receive their proportion of the funds quarterly, and may, one with another, receive L.2, 10s. per annum. Besides the above means of providing for the poor, there has, for many years, in winter been a subscription managed by the minister and the tenants; and thus about L.18 are divided among the poorer description of inhabitants, many of whom are not on the parish poor roll. There is still generally an aversion among the poorer orders to apply for parish aid, but it is gradually wearing off, and several are eager enough to be enrolled who might do better. None are permitted to seek for alms out of the parish, and very few in it.

*Inns.*—There are four inns or alehouses in the parish, all of which seem to be required. They do not appear to have a demoralizing effect upon the people.

*Fuel.*—The fuel chiefly used is coal from the coast of Cumberland, at 8d. per cwt. Some also make use of wood and peat; but peat is not got in the parish, excepting near the top of Criffell.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The system of turnip husbandry, and conveyance of fat stock, &c. to the Liverpool market by steam, may be said to constitute the most striking variations betwixt the present state of the parish and that which existed at the time the last Statistical Account was written. It may also be here mentioned that there are now two tile-kilns, one on the estate of Mr Craik, another on that of Mr Oswald.

Owing to the great demand for bathing quarters, and the eagerness with which rich and genteel families occupy very indifferent cottages at Saturness during the summer months, it cannot be doubted that building a number of neat comfortable cottages there, would be an excellent speculation. This would even be of great use to the poor of the parish, as the church collections would thereby be much improved, and thus the heritors would be secured against extra demands for their support.

The farmers and others have, within the last few years, formed

a society for the relief of vagrant beggars, and, at the same time, protecting themselves from their importunities. This system has succeeded admirably, the whole fund annually required for this purpose not exceeding L.8, and two sleeping apartments being gratuitously supplied by R. A. Oswald, Esq.

*March 1844.*

---

## PARISH OF NEW ABBEY.

PRESBYTERY OF DUMFRIES, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.

THE REV. JAMES HAMILTON, MINISTER.

---

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THERE seems plausible ground for assuming that the ancient name of this parish was Lochindoloch. This assumption rests upon the following quotation from the deed of Charles I. erecting the bishoprick of Edinburgh:—"Dedimus personæ ad dictum Episcopatum de Edinburgh, per nos providendæ speciatim totas et integras terras et baronias *de Lochindoloch, alias New Abbey*, cum omnibus et singulis ecclesiis decimis magnis et minutis omnium et singularum ecclesiarum *de New Abbey alias Lochindoloch*, Kirkpatrick-Durham, Buthil, et Crossmichael pertinentibus." To this designation, Lochindoloch, there is an evident similarity in the name of the principal lake in the parish, Loch Kindar, on an island in which stood the ancient parish church. The present name, New Abbey, is given in consequence of the parish containing the monastery, which sometimes received that name, to distinguish it from the old, or Dundrennan, Abbey, situated in the parish of Rerwick, and founded considerably more than a century before it.

*Extent and Boundaries.*—The length of the parish from north to south is fully 10 miles, and its breadth from east to west about 2 miles. It is bounded on the north, by the parish of Lochrutton; on the south, by Kirkbean; on the east, by Troqueer and the river Nith; and, on the west, by Kirkgunzeon and Colvend.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The surface is of irregular elevation, and, in many places, rough and rocky. Along the whole

western boundary, there is a range of hills, commencing with Lowtis on the north, and terminating with Criffell on the south. Douglas Cairn, on the top of Criffell, is about 1900 feet above the level of the sea. On the north-east side of the parish, there is also a ridge of elevated ground about five miles in extent. Between the two ridges, there is a strath, varying from a mile to a quarter of a mile in breadth, and watered by different streams, which, after their junction near the beautiful villa of Kinharvey, *alias* Kilhelvie, are called New Abbey Pow. Near the north end of the parish, the surface is level, and towards the south-east there is a portion of flat carse land; but the greatest part of that district slopes from the western hills gently towards the east, till it reaches the shore of the Nith, which separates it from Caerlaverock.

The shore is clayey. The merse is valuable pasture, but the extent of it is gradually diminishing by the encroachments of the tide. By embankments, many acres of valuable land might be recovered. But there is no prospect of this being done by the present generation.

The prevailing winds are from the south and west, and they often blow with tremendous violence. In the tempest of January 1839, about 30 acres of plantation on the estate of Shambellie, and worth nearly L.100 per acre, were uprooted or injured.

*Climate.*—Owing to the vicinity of the hills and of the Solway Frith, the climate is mild and moist; but, as the soil in three-fourths of the inhabited part of the parish is of an absorbent quality, the rain soon sinks, and the moisture does not induce any local distempers.

*Lakes.*—There are three lakes in the parish. Lochkindar, at the foot of Criffell, on the south, is about a mile long, three-quarters of a mile wide, and thirty feet deep; it abounds with excellent trout of different kinds. Where the bottom is gravelly, the trout, in the colour of its flesh, resembles salmon, and has a delightful flavour. Where the bottom is mossy, the flesh is whitish, and tastes of the soil. The size varies from a finger-length to eighteen inches. In this loch, there are two islands,—on one of which, as before noticed, stood, in Popish times, the parish church. A few years ago, the late proprietor, uninfluenced by any zeal for Romish superstitions or relics, slightly repaired the ruined walls, added a thatch roof, and fitted up an apartment as a refectory during the angling season. This island may measure half an

acre in extent, is but a short distance from the land, and accessible by a causeway, on which, at times, the water is not above a foot deep. It is a sweet spot, studded with trees and bushes; and the cattle having once tasted its delicious herbage, even when the water is several feet deep, fearlessly encounter the washing of their ribs by wading to gratify their palate. About 70 or 80 yards farther in, towards the centre of the loch, is a small circular island, composed almost entirely of stones, and obviously artificial. At one period it was much frequented by sea-gulls as a breeding place; but, for many years past, they have deserted it; and now, in a very slight covering of soil, some trees are growing. It rises about six feet above the level of the water.

Lochend Loch lies at the foot of Lowtis, on the north, is smaller than Lochkindar, perhaps fully as deep, and abounds with perch, pike, and furnishes a few large trouts, weighing from three to five pounds, and having a very thick leathery skin. In it there is also a small island, apparently artificial, within a few yards of the land, and well wooded.

Craigend Loch is about a mile distant, towards the north-east from Lochend, separated from it by a high ridge of rough rocky land, is not nearly so deep, and furnishes some very large pike. The bottom of both these lochs is mossy. All the lakes are beautifully fringed, in many places, with wood, and, in other places, the arable land reaches to the water's edge. Lochkindar sends its waters, collected from Criffell, to New Abbey Pow, which joins the Nith. The other two lakes help to form Kirkgunzeon Lane, which discharges itself into the water of Urr, near Dalbeattie.

*Rocks.*—The predominant rock is syenite. The entire western boundary from north to south is composed of this rock. It prevails throughout the greater portion of the division towards the north-east. Nothing else is seen externally, if we except a coarse unavailable limestone, which appears in the south-eastern division, and a patch of fine greenstone, all on the estates of Drum and Corbely. The peculiarities of the syenite are as follows:—

1st, It is said to contain hyacinth; but this mineral has been rarely found. 2d, It approaches stratification and the columnar shapes. A resemblance to the stratified form presents itself on the hill of Glensone, at or near the north-western boundary. An approach to the columnar shape is found in detached spots. For example, there are two or three blocks at the Roan on the Criffell side of Lochkindar, having a four-sided aspect, considered co-

luminar. But a better example is observable in a small united group near the top of Drumburn, on Criffell. 3d, Around the edge of Lochkindar a siliceous sand is driven ashore from the lake, and is supposed to be a *detritus* from Criffell. The sand, when pulverized, is valuable for the purpose of sharpening scythes.

On the farm of Craigend, there is a rocking-stone, estimated to weigh about fifteen tons, and yet a child may put it in motion. It was first discovered, about fifteen years ago, by two little girls, sisters, who, while playing about it, noticed its vibrations, and with astonishment reported them to their parents. It is a block of syenite : its position is on a piece of hard land surrounded by mossy or swampy ground : it is quite insulated.

*Soil.*—The arable land of the greatest and best part of the parish is a mixture of loam and gravel. There is, however, in this or south-east district a portion of alluvial clay ; and the north end of the parish is composed of clay, or moss upon a till bottom. This is wet, and not easily drained, as the tenacious subsoil does not allow the springs to discharge their water by filtration into the drains at even a few yards distance, but forces it to the surface in their immediate neighbourhood, so that, unless the drain cut the spring, it is inefficient. In various parts of the parish, symptoms of coal have been reported ; but either no efforts have been made to trace them, or they have proved abortive, as is said to have been the case on the estate of Kinharvey and Corbely.

*Fish.*—A few salmon wandering from the Nith have, about spawning time, in October, November, and December, been found in the Pow ; and vast quantities of flounders have been caught on the sand-banks of the Nith, the eastern boundary of the parish for about two miles.

*Woods.*—The plantation and natural timber in the parish extends to about 600 acres, of which 350 belong to Mr Stewart of Shambelly, who commenced planting at a very early period of life, nearly seventy years ago, and has lived to reap the fruits of his improvements, by drawing nearly L.100 per acre from land, which, in its natural state, afforded nothing but a scanty coarse herbage, browsed by goats, and not worth 2s. 6d. per acre. The plantations consist of Scotch fir, larch, beech, oak, and ash, which all thrive well.\*

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Historical Events.*—In 1300, Edward I. encamped in the neigh-

\* Mr Stewart died lately, aged 94.

bourhood of the abbey, and received, by the hands of Robert Winchelsea, Archbishop of Canterbury, a Bull from Pope Boniface VIII., *redarguing* the King's claim to the superiority of Scotland, and setting forth the title of his Holiness to that kingdom, as a part of Peter's patrimony. The Archbishop's narrative, dated October 1300, may be seen in Prynne's History of Edward, and contains an account of his Grace's detention at Carlisle till he could find out where the King was, and a minute detail of his perils by land, by water, and by men.\*

The Bull was duly delivered; the King held a council upon it; but, as it concerned the welfare of England, he declined giving any reply till he should consult the States. Soon after, he disbanded his army, and proceeded to Lincoln, where a parliament was assembled to prepare an answer. The Bull is endorsed, Memorandum quod Dominus Rex tradidit Domino J. de Langeton, Cancellario suo apud Northampton 24 die Decembris, anno regis 29, Bullam quam Archiepiscopus Cantuariensis tulit eidem Domino Regi apud Cartanoks in Scotia.

Soon after the battle of Waterloo, the inhabitants of New Abbey, aided by the contributions of a few other individuals, animated by those sentiments of gratitude and admiration which at that time pervaded all classes of British subjects towards the illustrious Duke of Wellington and his brave army, erected a monument to commemorate that great and important victory. It is a granite column 50 feet high by 16 feet diameter, with a winding stair inside, and stands on an eminence called Glen hill rising about 400 feet above the level of the sea. It is seen all over the southern part of Nithsdale, as well as the Solway Firth, and along the coast of Cumberland.†

\* The following extract contains all that relates to New Abbey:—"Denique eum audirem, diligentius explorando, quod idem Dominus Rex cum exercitu suo in redeundo versus castrum de Caerlaverock quod prius ceperat, in Scotia fixisset tentoria juxta novam Abbatiam de dus quer in Galvedia, malens periculo me, meas et meas exponere, quam in tam longinquis partibus, quoddammodo vacuis, extra meam Dioccesim et provinciam diutius sic languere, latitans in quibusdam locis secretis juxta mare, quod dividit Angliam et Galvediam, captata temporis opportunitate in refluxu maris, ductus ab iis quos non oportebat viae transitus ignorasse, transivi per quatuor meatus aquarum maritimos cum equis et phaleris nomine magis (ratione profunditatis aquarum) quam littoris et vivorum Sabulorum introitu et exitu periculosos: et quasi inopinatus veni die Veneris proximo post festum Sancti Bartholomaei Apostoli, ultimo jam transacto, ad dictum Regem, in medio exercitu suo tunc praedio existentem, et quis non potuit, ut dicebat, eo die vacare, mandavit mihi illo die in seculo per duos de majoribus Comitibus, qui tum assistebant ei, quod in crastino, videlicet, Sabato sequente, audiret me benigne."

† The projector was Robert Johnston, Esq. author of a volume of *Travels from Petersburg to Moscow*, and from Moscow along the line of Napoleon's disastrous retreat through Russia and Poland.

*Antiquities.*—Lying within one of the church windows are two stones, which throw light upon the history of the abbey of Sweetheart. On one of them are cut in large Roman capitals the two last syllables of the name of its foundress, GULLA FVDATRIX. On the other stone, which has evidently been a continuation of the same line of building, are cut in the same kind of letters M.E.LXXXIIII, expressing clearly 1284. But whether this date is to be understood as marking the time when the abbey was completed, or of the death of the foundress, does not certainly appear, as there is no information whether these stones formed a part of the Abbey walls, or of a monument erected in or near it.

The inscription is quite conclusive as to the foundress of the Abbey, who was Devorgulla, daughter of Allan, Lord of Gallogway, niece to David, Earl of Huntingdon, wife of John Baliol, and mother of John Baliol, King of Scotland. Her husband died in 1279, and was buried here. His heart having been embalmed, and put into an ivory box bound with silver, was solemnly deposited within the walls of the church, near the high altar, from which the Abbey took the name of Sweetheart. In the arch of that part of the choir, which is to the south of the cross, are two key-stones, on which are cut a heart and two roses, with two crosiers, and this inscription, *Christus maritus meus*; alluding to the dedication of the church to the Virgin Mary, as well as to the piety of the widow, who here deposited the heart of her husband. The refectory of the abbey stood opposite the church, and was used for Divine service till 1731, when, falling to decay, it was, in part, taken down, and a new church erected. Under the refectory was the kitchen, with several vaults. The chapter-house adjoined the old church. Above it was the abbot's house. The dormitories stood to the east beyond the abbot's house.\* All these are now completely demolished; and, but for the interposition of the late minister, the abbey itself would, in all probability, have been in the same state; for it having fallen into the hands of persons who had no antiquarian enthusiasm, and who estimated their purchase only by its worth as a quarry, they commenced pulling down the consecrated fabric to get materials for building houses in the village. The minister, however, with very different sentiments, succeeded in obtaining subscriptions to purchase it; and, for forty guineas, saved it from destruc-

\* *Vide Cardonnel.*

tion. It is now secured from farther dilapidation except what comes inevitably from the hand of time.

Length of the abbey from east to west, 194 feet; breadth, including transept, 63 feet; the cross, from north to south, 102 feet; height of the tower about 90 feet. The particular year of its erection is uncertain.

The monks belonging to the abbey were of the Cistercian order, instituted in 1098.

In the 24th of Edward I. John, Abbé de Douzquer, swore fealty at Berwick, and renounced connection with the King of France, and was in consequence restored to his lands, which had been seized. Gilbert Brown, descended of the family of Garsleuth, was the last abbot. He sat in Parliament 17th August 1560, whilst the Confession of Faith was approved, and, in 1605, he was apprehended by the Lord Cranstoun, Captain of the Guards, appointed for the Borders, and was sent to Blackness, and, after some days, was transported to the Castle of Edinburgh, where he was confined till he left the kingdom. He died at Paris, 14th May 1612.

The Lord Maxwells, ancestors of the Earl of Nithsdale, were heritable bailies of this monastery; and Sir Robert Spotiswoode, President of the Court of Session, and secretary to Charles I., being possessed of this abbey in temporal lordship, was, from it, called Lord New Abbey.

Distant about half a mile from the abbey, on the farm of Landis, stand the ruins of a square building called the Abbot's tower, which, as well as the Abbey, is partly mantled over with ivy, and the residence of owls, jackdaws, and swifts during their short visits to these northern regions.

*Coins.*—A few copper coins, very thin, and of the breadth of a sixpence, have been dug up in the vicinity of the abbey, and two of them are now in the hands of the minister.

Some years ago, in a very dry summer, there were taken out of Lochend loch, two metal pots, capable of containing three or four gallons, evidently of very ancient manufacture. They are now in the possession of D. Hamilton Craik, Esq. of Arbigland, on whose property they were found. Another pot, of similar materials, but of smaller dimensions, was, some years ago, dug up near the abbot's tower, and remains with the tenant of the farm.

*Land-owners.*—The chief land-owners are, R. A. Oswald, Esq.



of Auchencruive; William Stewart, Esq. of Shambelly; James Carrick Moore, Esq. of Carswell; Constable Maxwell, Esq. of Terregles; and D. H. Craik, Esq. of Arbigland.

*Parochial Registers.*—The parochial registers of baptisms, marriages, and church discipline commence in May 1691, when Mr Harvey was minister, and have been kept with considerable regularity. The register of burials has been less attended to, but not altogether neglected by the succeeding incumbents. The early part of the discipline Register evinces a vigilance of inquiry into the private conduct of individuals, and a severity of punishment which are unknown in the present day.

*Mansion-Houses, &c.*—Mr Stewart of Shambelly has two mansion-houses; one, of great antiquity, in the village, where he resides, and another at a short distance, built by himself. The situation of the latter is very delightful, being so elevated as to command a view of Caerlaverock Castle, Solway Frith, Criffell, Waterloo monument, the abbey, the proprietor's extensive plantations, and the public road to Carsethorn, by which public carriages regularly go to and from the Nithsdale steamer. The fanciful villa of Kinharvey, lately purchased for shooting quarters by Mr Maxwell of Terregles, and about to be enlarged and embellished, arrests the eye of every traveller, as he passes through the strath where it is situated.

The parish church was repaired about thirty-four years ago; and, since that time, two galleries have been fitted up in it; one, containing ninety seats, was erected by the heritors, and allotted to themselves and their tenants; the other was erected by subscriptions of the parishioners and some heritors. The whole church is commodious and comfortably seated.

A Romish chapel was erected about seventeen years ago. Its appearance is neat; and there is attached to it a house for the priest. For the last seven years, there has been no officiating priest.

About thirty years ago, the Society of Free Masons and a Friendly Society erected a hall for their meetings; but it has since been sold, and is now used as a ball-room, and for other public purposes.

There are a grain-mill, a mill for carding and spinning wool, and a saw-mill, which employs about ten persons. The timber prepared at the saw-mill is generally shipped to Liverpool.

## III.—POPULATION.

In 1755, the population was	634
1760,	506
1790,	649
1801,	832
1811,	1045
1821,	1112
1831,	1060
1841,	1049

There are eleven proprietors of land of the yearly value of L.50 and upwards, only two of whom are resident.

## IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—There are occasionally tilled 3215 Scotch acres; uncultivated, 5371, of which, even at present prices, not above 100 acres could be profitably added to the cultivated land; 600 acres are under wood.

*Rent.*—The average rent of arable land, per acre, may be about L.1, 5s. On the fine pasture near the village, a cow's grass for the year is L.5; a sheep's grass may be estimated at 5s. The gross rental of the parish for arable and pasture land is nearly L. 5000: the rent of houses, with small gardens attached, is about L.250.

*Wages.*—In summer, labourers' wages are 8s. or 9s., and in winter, 7s. 6d, weekly; joiners, 14s.; masons, 15s., without victuals; tailors, 7s. 6d. with victuals.

*Sheep.*—In the low lands there are a few of the Leicester breed of sheep, not, however, of the purest kind. On the hills, the black-faced species prevails. On one farm, which keeps about fifteen scores, an attempt is making to introduce the Cheviot.

*Leases.*—The leases are generally for fifteen or eighteen years.

*Fences.*—The fences in the arable lands consist principally of granite dikes, from four to five feet high, partly double to the height of two feet, the rest single. The enclosures are proportioned to the size of the farms, quality of the soil, and other local circumstances.

*Farm-Buildings.*—The farm-buildings are all good. There are eighteen thrashing-mills in the parish, the one-half of them driven by water.

*Improvements.*—The principal improvements lately made have been in draining: also, about 100 acres have been planted on Kinharvey.

*Fishing.*—There is no rented fishery in the parish; but the inhabitants have a right to fish in the Nith, opposite the parish, with halve and leister, upon paying a third to the proprietor, Mr Os-

wald, who, instead of levying his rent in kind, usually compounds with the fishers for 2s. each, during the season. Salmon, herrings, and flounders, are the species commonly taken.

*Produce.*—

Value of produce of grain without straw,	-	L.4845	0	0
potatoes and turnips,	-	2184	0	0
hay,	-	916	0	0
sheep,	-	490	0	0
cattle,	-	2419	0	0
butter and cheese,	-	200	0	0
		L.11,054	0	0

The revenue arising from young pigs and young horses sold out of the parish cannot be ascertained, but must be inconsiderable.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Harbours.*—New Abbey Pow is navigable at spring-tides for vessels of 60 or 70 tons, to within a mile from the village. The lime and coals required by the parish are generally discharged in it. The harbour is in a very bad state. Were it improved, it would be more resorted to, and the inhabitants benefited.

*Market-Town.*—Dumfries, distant seven miles, is the nearest market-town, and supplies a ready demand for all sorts of agricultural produce.

*Villages.*—About ten families reside at Drumburn, which, except New Abbey, is the only place in the parish that can be called a village.

*Means of Communication.*—New Abbey has a daily post from Dumfries, carriers twice a-week, and coaches to and from Dumfries and Carsethorn every alternate week. There are about two miles of turnpike road passing through the north-west end of the parish, and on it two coaches travel six days a-week to Kirkcudbright. There are four miles of turnpike road in the south-east side of the parish.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church is conveniently situate for the population, which is by far most numerous in the low end of the parish. It is distant from the south-east extremity fully three miles, and about seven miles from the north-west boundary. Including the galleries, it affords accommodation for about 470 sitters, exclusive of the area, where the communion table is placed. The manse was built in 1802. A kitchen was added about nineteen years ago. The repairs since have been very trifling. The glebe consists of 10½ acres, including garden and houses, and is worth L.20. The stipend is 16 chalders, half meal and half bar-

ley, with L.8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements. From time immemorial, the minister has possessed ten dargues of peats in a defined part of the Craig Moss, as a part of his benefice. But the present incumbent has been dragged into a litigation in defence of this privilege.

The people are well affected to the Established Church, and have resisted various attempts to detach them from it.

The late minister's settlement, in 1769, was literally a violent one. In point of character and talent he was unobjectionable; but, by sinister arts, the people were roused to resist his induction, and it was not without danger to their lives that the presbytery succeeded in ordaining him. By conciliating manners, and friendly services to all his neighbours, without reference to the part which any might have acted in regard to his settlement, he soon mollified his infuriated parishioners, became acceptable to all, and lived in harmony with them for fifty-one years. As in the case of the celebrated Dr Reid, the people fought against him when he came, and would have fought with equal keenness to keep him, had any attempted to take him away. The lesson has not been lost upon the present generation.

The Roman Catholic chapel is within the diocese of Edinburgh.

There are 235 families in the parish, consisting of 935 individuals professedly belonging to the Established Church, and 35 families of 115 individuals belonging to various sects of Dissenters, including 67 Roman Catholics, or persons commonly reputed such. The parish church is well attended. The average number of communicants is nearly 300. Collections for religious purposes are always liberal, but not frequent.

*Education.*—There are five schools in the parish, three parochial and two unendowed, besides a Sabbath school taught and supported by the minister and assistants.

In the principal school, Greek, Latin, geography, navigation, arithmetic, mensuration, book-keeping, writing, and English are taught. In two of the other schools, the same branches, excepting navigation and Greek, are usually taught. In the remaining two, classical literature is not required. The salary of the principal schoolmaster is L.29, 18s. 9½d., and the teacher has a right to the interest of L.150. One school has L.10, 13s. 10½d. of salary and the interest of L.54, and the other has the same. A good dwelling-house is attached to the principal school.

*Library.*—For upwards of thirty years, there has been a parochial library. The books are generally standard works of history, travels, and divinity; novels being expressly excluded.

*Savings Bank.*—About twenty years ago, a Savings bank was established, but after ten or twelve years' trial, it was abandoned.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The average number of persons upon the poor's roll is 30, who each receive on an average, in meal, money, and coals, about L.3 yearly. Others occasionally receive aid; and when the necessities of the regular poor are increased by disease or other temporary causes, an addition is made to their usual allowance, and L.1 is always granted to the person who defrays the funeral expenses of any one upon the roll. The means at the command of the session for meeting this expenditure are, the rent of a farm yielding L.110, the interest of mortifications, and church collections, amounting on an average to L.20 yearly. Nearly L. 200 have been expended in rebuilding farm-houses, about L.70 for a charter and feu-duties, and upwards of L.30 for valuing teinds. These outlays were made from the mortifications, and are to be repaid by instalments, which has been partially done. But till the whole be paid up, the poor will not receive the full benefit of their apparently ample inheritance. The high and independent spirit of Scotland's poor still hovers over the parish, but rests only on one in a hundred. The farm was purchased in 1756, at L.220, consisting of a mortification of L.156 for behoof of the poor, by Bailie Paterson of Dumfries, L.14 of accumulated interest, and L.50 of collections that had been saved. Mr Paterson was a native of the parish. He also erected the bridge at the entrance to the village from Dumfries, as is commemorated by the following inscription: "Erected by Bailie John Paterson, late of Dumfries, 1715."

*Inns.*—There are four inns in the parish, and of these three are in the village.

*Drawn up 1840.*

*Revised February 1844.*

# PARISH OF KIRKPATRICK-DURHAM.\*

PRESBYTERY OF DUMFRIES, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.

THE REV. GEORGE GREIG, MINISTER.

---

## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Names.*—In Wodrow's History of the Sufferings of the Church of Scotland, we find this parish to have been formerly distinguished as Kirkpatrick on the Muir, but this name has long been laid aside. Kirkpatrick is an appellation which it bears in common with several parishes in the south of Scotland. "Durham is most probably derived," says Dr Lamont, the author of the former Account of this parish, "from the Saxon words *durr*, which signifies dry or barren, and *ham*, which denotes a village or division of a manor. If this derivation be just, Durham becomes descriptive of a country that is dry and barren, an appellation that is peculiarly applicable to the situation, and soil, and surface of this particular district."

*Extent, &c.*—The parish stretches from north to south in a pretty regular form to the extent of about 10 miles: its breadth seldom exceeding 4, and nearly averaging  $3\frac{1}{2}$ . If we take nine miles as the length, exclusive of extreme points, we shall have about  $31\frac{1}{2}$  square miles as its extent of surface. It is bounded by the parishes of Urr and Crossmichael, on the south; by Parton and Balmaclellan, on the west; by Glencairn and Dunscore, on the north; and by Holywood and Kirkpatrick-Irongray, on the east.

*Topographical Appearances.*—Though the general elevation of the parish is considerable, it contains no lofty mountains, and the heights which diversify its surface consist chiefly of craggy hills, which partake of the geological character of the surrounding district. In many places these ranges have not as yet been cultivated to their summits, and are now crowned with thriving plantations. Towards the north lies the Muir of Kirkpatrick, a high bleak district, consisting chiefly of pasture for black-cattle and

\* Drawn up by the Rev. Geo. John Duncan, Kirkpatrick-Durham.

sheep, and in many places producing nothing more profitable than benty grass or heather.

*Hydrography.*—The Urr, which is the only river connected with the parish, rises in its north-west corner from a lake of the same name, and flows rapidly through a romantic valley, forming the western boundary of Kirkpatrick-Durham from one end to the other, and reaching the sea about ten miles beyond the southern extremity of the parish. There are a few inconsiderable lakes, which afford amusement to those who delight in angling, but contribute little either to the general beauty or advantage of the country.

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—There have been as yet no discoveries of useful minerals. Nodules of lead were at one time met with in a field on the estate of Chipperkyle; but it has been conjectured, with some probability, that these were not the production of the spot.

*Soil.*—In the lower district of the parish, the soil is in general tolerably fertile; and, though in many places thin and sandy, where judiciously managed, yields rich and luxuriant crops of grain. A large proportion of the surface consists of fine old pasture, which furnishes a kindly and often highly profitable nourishment to the herds of black-cattle for which the district is famous.

The salmon-fishing of the Urr, it is to be regretted, has of late years become extremely unproductive. It is not many years since the proprietors on its banks used to procure very considerable quantities of this valuable fish at trifling expense or trouble; but now it is comparatively very seldom to be had. The cause of this has been variously stated. There can be no doubt that poaching is carried on during the whole winter by torch-light, destroying the mother-fish, and thus almost annihilating the breed; and, what is infinitely more to be regretted, promoting, it is to be feared, a spirit of lawlessness and dishonesty quite inconsistent with the good order of society. Part of the evil probably arises from the extensive stake-net fisheries at the river's mouth, which intercept the fish in their way from the sea; and from the erection of the wiers and dams which the different mills on its banks require. The period when the salmon ascend this river for spawning cannot be very accurately stated. The shallowness of the stream frequently prevents their appearance till after the ordinary time, and, in dry seasons, they do not reach its higher parts till so late as November. The other fishes most frequently

met with in the Urr are trout and pike, and the lakes furnish perch and eels.

*Woods.*—There are no woods of any extent within the parish. Along the banks of the river are the remains of a natural forest, which the successive encroachments of modern agriculture have reduced to very scanty dimensions, but which still add greatly to the picturesque beauties of this romantic stream.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

The secluded character of this parish has prevented it from ever becoming the scene of important historical events. During that dark period of Scottish history, however, which elapsed while the second Charles and his successor were endeavouring to bind the yoke of despotism around the necks of their northern subjects, we find its inhabitants inspired by the same ardent zeal which distinguished their countrymen in the noble cause of religious and civil liberty, and more than one martyr's tomb in the neighbourhood still recalls to the patriot the time, when, upon these fields, the cause of Scotland's freedom was contested. Mr Gabriel Semple, of the family of Cathcart in Renfrewshire, the outed minister of this parish, was one of the distinguished witnesses for the truth which that remarkable age produced. Some interesting particulars of his life are detailed in Wodrow's Church History, and Murray's Literary History of Galloway. He lived to see the completion of his most ardent wishes at the glorious Revolution of 1688, when he was recalled to Scotland, and chosen to the pastoral care of the parish of Jedburgh, where he continued in the zealous discharge of the duties of his office till the year 1706, when he died at a very venerable age.

● *Antiquities.*—This parish presents but a barren field for antiquarian research. In various quarters there are the remains of circular walls and mounds, which in this district, and throughout the Stewartry where they abound, have received the name of *moats*. What these have been, or for what purposes erected, cannot at this remote period be distinctly ascertained. Certain it is, that, as places of strength, none of them, even when in their most perfect state, could have long resisted the effects of a cannonade, whence it may be argued that their origin ought to be referred to a period prior to the general use of fire-arms. That they are to be traced to the Roman invaders seems highly improbable, both from their number and peculiar form, while the idea that they are Druidical remains, is, for similar reasons, equally unte-



nable. It seems most likely that these curious structures have been meant as places of security for cattle during those lawless periods when the Border clans extended their ravages far and wide, making open plunder their sole profession. This idea seems to be supported by the fact that, in many retired corners of the Muir of Kirkpatrick, there are to be met with the remains of stone dikes which have once formed circular enclosures, universally understood to have been used as places of safety and concealment for cattle during the predatory incursions of "the thieves of Annandale." On one of the moats just alluded to, which is situate on the estate of Doonpark, there were found a few years since some remains of ancient armour. Owing to the ignorance of the discoverer, however, these were speedily converted into implements more useful, if not more curious than the "auld nick-nackets" which adorn the shelves of the antiquary, and any information they were calculated to afford was thus lost. The only remnant of early architecture to be met with in the parish, is the foundation of an old church on the estate of Areeming, which, though no records remain to tell its history, in all probability gave its name to the neighbouring farm of Kirklebride.

### III.—POPULATION.

The amount of population, by the returns made to Dr Webster, was 699. Towards the close of last century, it was reckoned at 1000. The Government census since that period affords the following numbers :

In 1801,	-	1007
1811,	-	1156
1821,	-	1473
1831,	-	1486
1841,	-	1487

The rapid increase which took place about the end of last century, has been traced by Dr Lamont to the formation of a new and most beneficial road which leads to a harbour at the mouth of the Urr, the introduction of manufactures, and the change of plan adopted by proprietors in letting their estates, by which, what had been formerly occupied by one tenant was divided into several farms, each let to a separate individual.

There can be no doubt that these were the true causes, and they are quite sufficient to account for the effect. The gradual increase which has since taken place, in common with that which is observable in the country at large, may be traced to its general improvement and extended resources.

The amount of population residing in the different villages may be thus estimated :

In Kirkpatrick-Durham,	500
In Bridge of Orr,	47
In Crocketford, (so far as connected with this parish,)	66
	<hr/>
Total amount of population in villages,	613
Total in country,	852
	<hr/>
Total amount of population,	1465

In every 100 of the inhabitants, the average number of persons

Under 15 is	36
Between 15 and 30,	23½
30 and 50,	23½
50 and 70,	12
Upwards of 70,	5

*Mansion-Houses.*—There are no fewer than six mansion-houses in the parish, occupied by their respective proprietors, or tenants in an equally respectable station, who in most cases reside here during the whole year; while the adjoining parishes are every where dotted with the comfortable homes of families of independent fortune. The neighbourhood is thus rendered in the highest degree agreeable; and the well-known hospitality of the gentry has given it the not inappropriate title of the Court of Galloway. Within the bounds of this parish there are twenty-one proprietors of land of the yearly value of £50 and upwards, of whom ten are resident.

The number of unmarried men above fifty may be stated with tolerable accuracy at 49; that of unmarried women above forty-five, at 66.

There are resident in the parish, one individual who has not the use of his reasoning faculties, and three who are blind or nearly so.

*Character of the People.*—The people, in general, are orderly, quiet, industrious, and contented. In the principal village the unnecessary multiplication of public-houses at one time contributed to demoralize a certain class of the inhabitants, and to introduce wretchedness, disease, and beggary; but at present the abuse of ardent spirits is comparatively but little witnessed, while the regularity of attendance upon public ordinances, and the anxiety evinced by parents to afford their children the blessings of education, give us reason to believe, that the character of the inhabitants comes fully up to the average of their countrymen, in respect to intelligence, morality, and religion. It is, however, much to be regretted, that offences against the game-laws are frequent, and tend

here, as elsewhere, to introduce among the young men habits of idleness, and a disregard of the laws, which not only destroy their own respectability, but threaten to entail distressing effects upon the succeeding generation.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

The number of acres may be stated in round numbers at 20,000, of which about 8000 are either cultivated or occasionally in tillage. A great portion of the remainder is used as pasture for black-cattle or sheep, while a considerable tract is included under the names of bogs, mosses, and muirs. The wood covers perhaps 400 or 500 acres. Of the uncultivated land a large proportion lies in the northern district of the parish; and there are many hundred acres in that quarter capable of yielding a very profitable return to an enterprising capitalist. With the exception of the natural wood, which is to be found chiefly on the estates of Kilquhanity and Kirklebride, the trees in this parish are for the most part but recently planted, and consist of the common hard-wooded kinds, which are largely intermixed with larch in order to afford them the necessary protection from severe winds. The average rent of land over the whole parish may be stated at 7s. per imperial acre; but in the southern and western districts it may fairly be estimated at L.1 or L.1, 5s.

The rate of labour varies in winter from 1s. to 1s. 4d. a day, and in summer from 1s. 4d. to 1s. 8d. The mode of husbandry will be found to differ very little, if at all, from that pursued in the neighbouring district. The attention of the farmers is chiefly directed to the breeding and rearing of black-cattle for the southern markets. Their leases generally last for fifteen years, and their houses and onsteads are convenient and comfortable.

It would be impossible to give any accurate account of the value of the annual produce of different sorts yielded by the soil. The annual rental of the parish is about L.6600. A great proportion of the farmers engage in the cattle trade, either speculating on their own account, or acting as commission agents for the great dealers. The trade is proverbially insecure, its success or failure in each enterprise depending on a rise or fall of prices, which very generally can neither be foreseen nor controlled.

*Manufactures.*—There is no branch of manufactures carried on to any extent in the parish. The different societies for the encouragement of trade, manufactures, and commerce, mentioned in Dr Lamont's account, have long since died a natural death, and

now there are neither artisans nor manufacturers within our boundaries, whose services are required beyond the immediate neighbourhood.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Town, &c.*—The nearest market is afforded by the thriving little town of Castle Douglas, which lies about six miles south-west of the village of Kirkpatrick. There is a post-office at the village, and a daily delivery and dispatch. A post-cart, which, along with the mail, carries light goods, travels between Kirkpatrick and Castle Douglas, by which the household wants of the community are chiefly supplied. The great road from Portpatrick to Dumfries skirts the southern boundary of the parish for five miles, offering a means of ready communication with every quarter of the kingdom. Besides the mail, a heavy coach passes from Dumfries to Kirkcudbright and back on six days of the week. At Crocketford, a road branches off towards New Galloway and the Glenkens; but there is at present no public conveyance in that direction.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church is situate in the southern extremity of the parish. It was built A. D. 1748, and bears all the marks of its early date. About thirty-five years ago, in consequence of the increased demand for church accommodation, a number of the inhabitants were at the expense of erecting an aisle, which increased the sittings to three hundred and seventy-five, a number greatly below the proportion legally requisite for the amount of population. The manse was built in the year 1838. The glebe contains upwards of six acres, and consists of tolerably good land. The teinds are exhausted, and the stipend amounts to L.271.

Before the late secession from the Establishment, the numbers connected with the different religious societies might have been stated as follows: Established Church, 1284; Dissenters and Seceders, 158; Episcopalians, 12; Roman Catholics, 32. Among the Dissenters and Seceders in the preceding table, are included two aged individuals, a man and a woman, resident at Crocketford, the last venerable remnant of a fanatical sect, the followers of a woman named Buchan, who arose in Ayrshire about forty years ago,—and who, to the amount of forty men and women, including a minister of the Relief Church and a member of the legal profession, after having been persecuted from one district to another for several years, at length took up their abode in this parish, where

they have resided with little intermission ever since. This innocent but enthusiastic society have always possessed a community of goods, and now that their numbers are so small, their worldly circumstances are more than comfortable. Among other singularities, they refuse to acknowledge the band of marriage; but the most striking peculiarity by which their opinions were at first distinguished, consisted in the belief that the members of their sect should never die, and that, under the guidance of their female seer, they were to be translated in a body to the New Jerusalem. This expectation having been disappointed, notwithstanding the severe and lengthened fasts which they underwent in order to facilitate their flight,—and death having interposed his unquestionable negative to their doctrine by summoning their leader to her last account, they found it necessary to relinquish the most fanatical of their opinions, and, though with several exceptions, among whom is to be reckoned the clerical member already noticed, they continued to preserve their seclusion from the world,—their manners, which had always been inoffensive and peaceable, became gradually assimilated to those of their neighbourhood,—and they are now to be distinguished only by the simplicity of their demeanour, and a few religious peculiarities of the most unobtrusive description. The old man, who still survives, possesses a large fund of intelligence, and amuses himself by writing many a dissertation on points connected with his peculiar creed, which, though not theologically orthodox, evince a mind much above the ordinary standard.

A “Free Church” has been lately erected in the village, which is attended by a large proportion of the people.

*Education.*—Of the three public schools in the parish, two are on the Establishment. The expense of education is the same here as in the neighbouring parishes. The principal schoolmaster, whose place of instruction is situated at the village, is entitled to the largest rate of salary, (subject to a small deduction for the support of a school at Crocketford,) besides a considerable annual sum derived from money mortgaged many years ago for his benefit. The inhabitants seem, in general, fully alive to the blessings of education, and the whole population, with hardly a single exception, are taught to read and write. There are a few poor families resident in the upper end of the parish, whose places of abode are situated at so great a distance from any of the schools as to preclude their deriving from them any benefit. A teacher is therefore generally

hired for the winter, who resides alternately in each house in the district, instructing such children as are sent to him by the neighbouring families.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The number of persons at present on the poor roll, several of whom have families chiefly dependent on what they receive from the parochial fund, is much increased of late, and the average sum afforded to each is miserably small. The session funds arise from collections in church and a voluntary assessment annually imposed by the heritors. The sum of L. 5 besides, arising from money mortified for this charitable purpose, is yearly distributed to five such poor persons as the kirk-session judge to be the fittest objects.

*Fairs.*—There is still an annual fair held in the village of Kirkpatrick in March, but the assemblage of attendants has vastly diminished, and the horse races and balls have dwindled into a very paltry representation of what they seem formerly to have been.

*Inns.*—There are four public-houses in the parish, which, in general, are conducted in a respectable manner.

*Fuel.*—The parish was long amply supplied with fuel from the mosses with which it abounds, but of late years this valuable article has become scarce. Peats are still obtained in small quantities both in this and the neighbouring district; but the chief article of consumption under this head is coal, which is procured from the English skippers, who import it from the opposite coast, and sell it to their customers at the harbour of Dalbeattie, at the average rate of 7s. 6d. a cart load.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Since the last Statistical Account was written, the general aspect of the parish has been most materially changed. Then, there were but one or two houses that could claim any superiority over those of the farmers, and these last again were but a very small step removed above the humble thatched cottages of their servants and labourers. Now, almost every considerable estate has its mansion, and its neat garden and tasteful shrubbery. Heath and furze then occupied large tracts of ground, which are now covered by thriving wood, or cleared for the pasture of cattle and the growing of corn. Then, only a few tracks existed to point out the direction which the traveller should pursue, without aiding him materially in his journey. Now, smooth and well engineered roads intersect the parish in all directions.

Other changes too have taken place. The manufactures which

at that time were prosperously commencing, and promised to bring wealth and comfort to the abodes of many of the inhabitants, have taken their flight to other regions, and the people again possess all the characteristics of a rural race, though in many cases suffering from the dire effects of extreme poverty. To this fact may, perhaps, in some measure be traced the difference which is observed in the attendance at the fair of Kirkpatrick now, when compared with what it once was.

*Revised March 1844.*

---

## PARISH OF KIRKPATRICK-IRONGRAY.

PRESBYTERY OF DUMFRIES, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.

THE REV. J. WILSON, MINISTER.\*

---

### L.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—IRONGRAY, the name by which this parish is now generally known, seems to have been added to Kirkpatrick by way of distinction, and signifies, as has been supposed, *Gray's land*; the spot where the old church stood, which was dedicated to St Patrick, being probably so called. It lies on the right bank of the Cluden or Cairn, a few miles to the west of Dumfries, and, in form, is nearly triangular.

*Extent, &c.*—It extends 9 miles in length, by from 1 to 4 in breadth, and contains a surface of 14,464 imperial acres, or 22.60 square miles. It is bounded on the east by Terregles; on the north, by the Cluden, which separates it from Holywood; on the west and south-west, by Kirkpatrick-Durham and Urr; and on the south, by Lochrutton and Terregles.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The appearance of the parish is varied and singularly beautiful. The lowest or eastern extremity is nearly level, and in a state of the highest cultivation. The centre consists of two or more undulations of hills, being part of a range which stretches across the stewartry from north to south. Their knolls and heights are finely wooded; their sloping acclivities well and somewhat tastefully enclosed, here in pasture, and there in crop; and their outline, as seen from different parts of

\* Communicated by the late Incumbent of the parish, the Rev. Robert Crawford.

the vale, highly picturesque. From several points, particularly along the upper parts of the farm of Inglestone, on the estate of Mr Oswald of Auchencruive, there are delightful views of the richest portion of Nithsdale, part of Annandale, the Solway, and the hills of Cumberland. The highest or western extremity consists of two bare elevated ridges, which rise to the height of about 1500 feet above the level of the sea. The one to the north, called "Bishop's Forest," is separated from the other, "Glenbennan," by the Auld water, a rivulet that falls into the Cairn, and gives the name of Cluden to that beautiful stream. With their gray rocks and dark-brown heath, they form a splendid back-ground to the lesser eminences, and the fertile well-cultivated plains beneath.

*Meteorology.*—The climate varies in different parts of the parish. In the upper district, the atmosphere is colder and more damp than in the lower, owing perhaps to the badness of the soil and the want of shelter from the westerly winds, which are here the most prevalent.

*Hydrography.*—The only stream which, strictly speaking, belongs to the parish, is the Auld water, which rises on the borders of Kirkpatrick-Durham, sweeps round the base of the Bishop's Forest, and falls into the Cairn about three miles above the junction of that stream with the Nith. The course being short, and the channel narrow and rocky, it is easily swollen, and then comes down with great rapidity, doing often considerable injury to the crops upon its banks. That, however, which gives any thing like interest to the stream, is a beautiful little waterfall, which marks its course, just where it crosses the road leading from Dumfries to Dunscore and Minnyhive, and very near its junction with the Cairn. The fall may be about 20 feet, and is succeeded by one considerably less, which deposits the waters in a deep smooth basin. Across the lower fall, and in front of the higher, nearly on a level with what may be called its rapids, a bridge, consisting of a single arch, is thrown. The whole scene, as seen from the bridge,—the ivy mantling its sides, the fine old oaks overhanging the stream, the noisy and agitated waters on the one side, their quiet and gentle current on the other, heightened as these are by coming unexpectedly upon them,—have a very pleasing effect, and arrest the attention of the passing traveller. The Routing Bridge, as the spot is called, is on the north-western extremity of the property of Mr Oswald of Auchencruive.



The Cairn skirts this parish on the north, for upwards of six miles, forming, as already stated, the boundary between it and Holywood in that direction, and adding greatly to the beauty of the landscape by its wooded banks, its numerous windings, and "its waves that sweetly glide." When joined by the Auld water, it takes the name of Cluden, and, after leaving Irongray, sweeps along the northern border of Terregles for about a mile, and then falls into the Nith, where the silent and venerable towers of the Abbey of Lincluden stand. It is easily forded, except after heavy rains, when it overflows its banks, and lays many of the adjacent fields under water. It abounds with trout and par, and, in their season, with fry, grilse, &c., and is considered an admirable fishing stream.

*Mineralogy.*—The rocks are whinstone, slate, freestone, and pudding-stone. Whinstone and slate of the greywacke species, compose the hills in the upper and middle district. The dip of the rock is from north to south, facing the south, with an angle of slight inclination. Freestone is to be found in various parts of the farms of Inglestone, Gateside, and Cluden, and forms the bed of the river a little below Cluden Mills. Above the mills, pudding-stone prevails, forming also the bed of the stream for upwards of a mile.

*Soils.*—The soil where freestone is found is of a light sandy nature, well adapted to the growing of turnip and barley, which are cultivated to a considerable extent on the large and best managed-farms. That on the slaty part is of a gravelly description, also well adapted to the culture of turnip and barley. The soil where whinstone prevails, is of a wet quality, having a subsoil of hard impenetrable till, a mixture of clay, sand, and gravel. The alluvial soils are of small extent, being confined to the immediate vicinity of the river. Underneath them at various depths, from five to ten feet, as also in many boggy parts of the parish, trees of different kinds are found, principally the oak, alder, birch, and fir, (*Pinus sylvestris*,) facts which prove that the latter tree, though not now, once was a native of the south of Scotland, and that several ages must have passed away, since they were deposited there. Marl, which was formerly used in considerable quantities as manure, and forms perhaps part of the strata of the parish, is to be met with in some of the bogs. It is now disused, having been superseded by lime and bones, which are nearly as cheap, and far less exhausting to the land.

*Wood.*—There are some stately oaks and beautiful beeches. Very fine specimens of both are to be found on the glebe.

#### II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

This parish occupies rather a distinguished place in the history of the memorable struggle for religious freedom which the Presbyterians or Covenanters maintained from 1662 to 1685. Here many of these oppressed and devoted men found a breathing-place and a sanctuary. On the southern side of the "Forest," there is an extensive hollow, enclosed on the west by Cornlee, and on the east by Skeoch Hill, with a natural opening from the south. About midway up Skeoch Hill, on the inner side, where there is a platform of considerable extent, several of the ejected ministers met their scattered flocks, and dispensed the sacrament to them. This lonely and otherwise unattractive spot is invested with a deep interest, from being the scene, and still retaining the memorials, of these events,—“the Communion Stones.” They consist of what may be called two tables, with a passage between them. Each table has two rows of seats in distinct preservation. At the head, there is a small cairn, which was obviously used as the table for the elements. A few yards to the south, a stone of an oval form is to be seen, with two separate circular cavities that admit the arm to the elbow, which held, according to tradition, the water for baptism. In front of the stones, towards the forest, the ground rises gradually, forming a kind of natural gallery, where the congregation could hear the sermons and addresses that were delivered, and witness the whole solemnity. The nature of the ground, and the precautions that were taken by planting watchmen on the heights, rendered the spot peculiarly secure. Any attempt to surprise them, was almost sure to be defeated. When this struggle commenced, John Welsh, the great grandson of Knox, was minister of the parish. He was ejected with seventeen of his brethren in 1662, and acted a conspicuous part in these troublous times. After his ejection, we find him in the city teaching from house to house; on the mountains, preaching to “the suffering wanderers” after sleepless nights; in the camp, healing divisions, and taming the impetuosity of the more fiery leaders; on the field of battle, lamenting the dire necessity that forced him to arms, yet periling his life in the cause. Strange to say, he escaped a violent death, having died in London on the 9th of January 1681.

In connection with this period we may state, that two martyrs,

Edward Gordon and Alexander M'Cubbin, lie buried on a small rising ground, within a clump of trees, close to the Cluden, and in view of the kirk. They were seized in Lochinket moor, by Bruce and the Laird of Lagg, and executed on the spot where they were buried, to strike terror, perhaps, into the hearts of some families in the neighbourhood, either known or suspected to be attached to the Presbyterian cause.

In later times, this parish gave birth to an individual in humble life, whose name would probably ere now have been forgotten, had not her singular and affecting story attracted the attention of the Author of *Waverley*, and given rise to one of the most enchanting and instructive of his tales — “The Heart of Midlothian.” The individual to whom we allude is Helen Walker, the prototype of “Jeanie Deans.” How he came to hear of her story, — the simple materials on which this splendid creation of his genius was reared, — and what led to the erection of a stone to her memory, are all given in the preface to the tale.\*

*Land-owners.*—James Oswald of Newark, M. P. for Glasgow, is patron of the parish. His estate lies along the right bank of the Cluden, and embraces part of the middle and almost the whole of the lower district of the parish. There is no mansion-house on the property. Mr Oswald's usual residence is Auchen-cruive, a magnificent seat in the parish of St Quivox, and neigh-

\* To bring her character before the view of the reader, we cannot do better than transcribe the simple and touching inscription written by himself.

This Stone was erected  
By the Author of *Waverley*,  
In  
Memory of Helen Walker,  
Who died in the year of God 1791.  
This Humble Individual  
Practised in Real Life  
the Virtues  
With which Fiction has invested  
The Imaginary character of  
Jeanie Deans.  
Refusing the slightest departure  
from Veracity,  
Even to save the life of a sister,  
She nevertheless showed her  
Kindness and fortitude,  
In  
Rescuing her from the severity of the law,  
At the expense of personal exertions,  
Which the time rendered as difficult,  
As the motive was laudable.

---

Respect the grave of poverty,  
When combined with love of truth  
And dear affection.

bourhood of Ayr. Mr Lennox, of Linncluden, in this parish, resides in New York. Wellwood Maxwell, Esq. of Barncleugh, is also a proprietor in this parish. Wellwood Maxwell, Esq. of the Grove, an extensive merchant in Liverpool, has an estate on the south-eastern extremity of the parish, which is principally under his own management. He has lately built an elegant and commodious mansion, after a design by Rickman, a self-taught architect of very considerable celebrity. The entrance faces the south, and is surmounted by a square tower. The front is towards the east, and commands from the upper part a view of Dumfries and the surrounding country. The other chief land-owners are Francis Maxwell, Esq. of Drumpark, and Alexander Hamilton Welsh of Skan, the representative of a very old family.

*Parochial Registers.*—The parochial registers are pretty voluminous. The date of the earliest entry is 1691. From 1694 to 1756, a period of sixty-two years, during which Mr James Guthrie was minister of the parish, they were very accurately kept.

### III.—POPULATION.

Amount of population in 1801,	730
1811,	841
1821,	880
1831, 435 males, 477 females,	912
1841,	927

### IV.—INDUSTRY.

Number of acres, imperial measure, cultivated,	7125
waste,	5225
under wood,	2114

The average rent of arable land per acre is 18s. The average rent of grazing for the year, per ox, L.2; per cow, including winter keep, L.7; per sheep, on hill pasture, 4s.; do. on cow pasture, and turnips part of the year, 10s.

*Live-Stock.*—The cattle are chiefly of the Galloway breed, which are considered to be best suited to the soil and climate, and are generally sold at from two to three years old, and sent south to be fattened for the English markets. Many of the farmers, however, are beginning to adopt a different system, viz. to fatten their cattle at home, and then send them south by steam to the market. This system, if fully acted upon, will put an end to droving, which has proved of late years so ruinous to all concerned. The sheep on the hill lands are black-faced, rather small in the bone, and partake much of the general character of the Galloway breed. Horses are reared here in considerable numbers. The best are of the Clydesdale kind; and, as a good deal of attention has been paid of late

to this sort of stock, the breed is rapidly improving. Pigs are a staple commodity in this quarter. They are generally killed when a year old, and sent for sale to the Dumfries market, where there is a very extensive trade in pork during winter and spring.

The average quantity of grain per acre may be, oats, 36 bushels; barley, 35 do.; wheat, 26 do.; potatoes, 10 tons; turnips, from 15 to 25 do., according as they are manured. Mangel wurzel and beet root are not cultivated, the soil being too light for them.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Town, &c.*—There is no market-town in the parish; the nearest is Dumfries, which is within three miles of the lower end. The roads are good. The only stone bridges are those across the Auld water, consisting of single arches and in good repair. The fences are in tolerable condition.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church is situated on the northern side of the parish, close to the Cluden, within two miles of the lower or eastern extremity, and consequently is distant from the upper or western about seven miles; a distance which is very inconvenient, and cannot, it is to be feared, be easily remedied. It is in the form of a parallelogram, with the pulpit in the west end, and a small vestry behind. It was built in 1803, is in good repair, and affords accommodation for nearly 400. The middle area is free, and contains about 50 sittings.

The most interesting benefaction on record, is that by Jean Biggar of Barbuie, in 1750, of 500 merks Scots for behoof of the poor, which was laid out in purchasing from Mr James Guthrie, then minister of the parish, a small property adjoining the glebe, called the Kirk-holm, which yields an annual rent of L. 8, 5s. The manse was built in 1801, and is a substantial and commodious house. The glebe consists of nine acres, the yearly value of which may be estimated at L. 25. The stipend is sixteen chalders, half meal, half barley, with L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements.

Divine service is in general well attended, and the Sabbath well kept. There is an annual collection for one of the four religious institutions, sanctioned by the General Assembly, which varies in amount, and bears a fair proportion to the circumstances of the people, who are almost exclusively farmers and cottars.

*Education.*—Total number of schools, 2, both parochial. The schoolmasters have the maximum salary divided between them, or L. 25, 13s. 7d. each, are provided with dwelling-houses, and re-

ceive in school fees, together, about L.30. There are none between six and fifteen years of age, or upwards, who can neither read nor write.

*Literature.*—A parish library was instituted about two years ago, is managed by a committee annually chosen, the minister being ex-officio president, and contains upwards of 200 volumes, —novels, romances and plays being excluded, and every precaution taken to ensure a proper selection of books.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—There are eighteen persons receiving parochial aid. The average yearly allowance to each person, is L. 5, 10s.—in all, L.99. The funds are produced as follows: collections, L.15; proclamations, L.1, 1s.; interest of money, L.15, 4s.; poor's holm, L.7, 15s.; and voluntary assessment of the heritors, L.60; total, L. 99.

The only alehouse in the parish is a very small one in the village of Shawhead.

*Fuel.*—The parish furnishes no fuel except peats, which may cost, independently of carriage, about 2s. 6d. per cart-load. Of course, they are cheaper when the purchaser can spare hands to cast them at the proper season. Search was lately made for coal on the farm of Midtown; but, as might have been expected from the mineral structure of the ground, without success. After boring a considerable depth, they came upon what they considered a stratum of this mineral. It proved, however, to be a hard slaty substance, of a dark gray colour, something like manganese, which emitted, when ignited, a strong sulphureous smell.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Since the last Account was written, various and important changes have taken place. A considerable proportion of the waste land has been reclaimed; small farms have merged into larger ones; old, half-ruinous, and supernumerary cothouses, which often prove haunts for vagrants, and nurseries of vice, are being removed. Farm-buildings, enclosures, roads, and bridges are in a very superior state to what they then were. The character and condition, too, of the people have been greatly ameliorated.

*Revised by the present Incumbent, March 1844.*

## PARISH OF CARSPHAIRN.

PRESBYTERY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT, SYNOD OF GALLOWAY.

THE REV. DAVID WELSH, MINISTER.

---

### L.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name, Situation, and Extent.*—THE name of this parish, which is frequently written Carsefern, is probably derived from *earse* and *fern*,—as the plain on which the church is situate, was, at the time of the first erection of the church, no doubt covered with fern. The parish is situate on the sloping side of that mountainous ridge which separates Kirkcudbright from Ayr, and has a southern exposure. On the north, it is bounded by the parishes of Dalmelington and New Cumnock; on the east, by the parish of St John's, Dalry; on the south, by Kells; and on the west and south-west, by the parishes of Straiton and Minnigaff.

The figure of the parish is nearly circular. It extends from north-west to south-east about ten miles, and from north-east to south-west about nine miles, and contains about 88 square miles.

The church is situate nearly in the centre of the parish, and the hills and mountains rise around forming a kind of amphitheatre. The parish, with very trifling exceptions, may be said to be altogether mountainous or hilly.

*Surface and General Appearance.*—The higher mountains are verdant to their summits; but the lower hills are generally covered with heath, and are interspersed with bogs of peat of considerable extent. The lower hills have growing among the heath or on the boggy ground, a sharp kind of grass, which in the early part of the season looks green; but as the season advances, and in autumn, it assumes a very brown appearance, and in the winter, it is carried like chaff by the wind.

*Rivers and Lakes.*—This parish is thickly indented with mountain streams. The largest stream, while it continues in the parish, is the Deugh. It loses its name, however, on joining the Ken,

which last stream is the separating boundary between Carsphairn and Dalry for about ten miles. This last, after leaving Carsphairn, passes through a beautiful and richly wooded country, forms that splendid sheet of water Loch Ken, and afterwards gives up its name to the Dee. The only loch in the parish is that of Loch Doon, which forms a considerable part of its western boundary.

*Mountains.*—The highest mountain in the parish is Cairnsmuir, which rises to an elevation of about 2696 feet above the level of the sea. It was chosen by Captain Colby as one of his stations for the trigonometrical survey in this part of Scotland, about 1814. From the summit of this mountain, when the atmosphere is clear, a most extensive view is obtained in every direction, except where it is intercepted by a mountain called Carline's Cairn, on the south-west side of the parish, which is nearly of an equal height.

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—The carse or plain on which the church of Carsphairn is situate, has been entirely formed by water. The churchyard may be said to be a sand-bank formed by the water. From the rapidity and force with which the Deugh rushes from the mountains, it is not wonderful that it should have frequently changed its course, and traversed, as it evidently has done, the whole of the plain. But, though this small portion of the parish be continually undergoing changes, the greater part is of a very unchangeable nature, and, from the number and elevation of its mountains, may be supposed to afford much scope for the investigations of the mineralogist.

As there are no indications of either lime or coal throughout the whole of the parish, and as there are plenty of stones upon the surface for the purpose of fences or of houses, there has not, till lately, been any attempt made to penetrate into the bowels of the earth.

Much, indeed, is reported of the rich freight, with which some of the small streams in the neighbourhood of Cairnsmoor were loaded in former times,—when a Mr Dodds, celebrated for his chemical skill, collected the golden grains, converting them into some foreign coin; but, after his lucrative retirement was disturbed by some of the officers of the Crown sent to apprehend him, he threw his dies for coining, into what is commonly called by the inhabitants the green well of Scotland, or well of Lagwine.

A discovery has been made on the estate of the Honourable Colonel M. Cathcart, of a vein of lead, which promises to be



productive. The proprietor has now a number of miners employed, and there are more labourers employed than ever were in this parish, at any former period. In a season when provisions are high, it is satisfactory to see labour provided for the industrious poor; and it is earnestly to be wished, that the hopes of the proprietor may be realized in their fullest extent. Iron has likewise been discovered on the same estate, and in the same neighbourhood. They are both found in that range of hills which forms the western or south-western boundary of the parish.

The rock which seems most generally diffused throughout the parish, is greywacke. Granite abounds, however, on the south-west part of the parish, near to and at Loch Doon, both in large masses and detached rocks. The Castle of Loch Doon, an ancient ruin, is situate on an island of granite in the loch, at nearly an equal distance from the parishes of Straiton and Carsphairn.

On the summits of the highest mountains, there is but little vegetation. In some places, small stones cover a considerable portion of the surface; in others, a long white moss, which yields to a considerable depth under the pressure of the foot. Where there is any vegetation, it is very stunted, and not calculated to afford nourishment to the flocks.

*Zoology.*—The eagle is frequently seen soaring between Cairnsmuir and Carline's Cairn; but his place of greatest security is about the rocky mountains of Star, in the parish of Straiton. It is commonly said, that the last place in the south of Scotland which the ptarmigan frequented, was Cairnsmuir. They have, for some time, however, been completely destroyed or banished. Other species of grouse are plentiful. Black game abound in every part of the parish; and the common grouse are very numerous. The migratory birds which visit us, are those which are common to high and muirland districts. The curlew, the green plover or pea-wit, are very common during the breeding season, but retire towards the shore as the season advances. Wild duck are numerous at all seasons. Owing to an almost entire want of woods or plantations, song birds are rare. The lark, however, abounds, and gives animation to the most remote and retired parts of the parish.

In the two principal streams in the parish, the Deugh and the Ken, the progress of the salmon is interrupted by falls, which they cannot surmount, and which shut them out from much good spawning ground. Towards the junction of these two, there is some good salmon fishing. All the streams abound with trout,

not of a large size, but such as afford good sport to the angler who delights in numbers. There are few places in the south, where the sportsman can find better amusement.

*Botany.*—It is not easy to conceive a parish of equal extent more entirely destitute of wood than Carsphairn. There are few old trees, and the plantations, with the exception of those on the farm of Dundeugh, are neither numerous nor extensive. Something has, however, been done, of late, to remedy this defect, by some of the residing heritors; and small clumps are rising upon several farms, which, besides being useful, will in some degree break the monotony of the scene. Carsphairn is, however, entirely a pastoral parish. The sheep are what the farmers depend upon for necessaries, for comfort, and for riches. To their flocks, therefore, their attention is chiefly, if not solely, directed; and they would not be very willing to see much of the land taken up with plantations, to the exclusion of the flocks, even though their landlords should be at the expense of enclosing and planting. Some, however, are beginning to see that the shelter which plantations afford during a storm, may be a full equivalent for the want of herbage, and that some benefit may arise from the thinnings of such plantations. There are some plants on the higher mountains, which are considered not very common.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

The parish of Carsphairn is said to have been separated from the parishes of Kells and Dalry, and constituted a parish, about the year 1627. Both these parishes receive stipend from Carsphairn, about L.9 Sterling each,—Kells levying on that part of the parish which lies on the west side of the Deugh,—and Dalry on the east. The first minister is said to have been a Mr Semple, who is reported to have been very zealous in the discharge of his ministerial duties.

*Eminent Men.*—Carsphairn was the birth-place of the late Dr Jackson, Professor of Natural Philosophy in the University of St Andrews,—a man with whose mathematical works the learned are acquainted, and who was not more distinguished as a scholar, than loved and admired as a man by all who knew him.

Sir Loudon M'Adam, celebrated for his improvements on turnpike roads, was likewise a native of this parish. He was said to have narrowly in infancy escaped, when the family mansion of Lagwine was consumed by fire. The body of Sir Loudon is in-

tered at Moffat, but the family tomb is in the churchyard of Carsphairn.

Mr M'Adam, late of Castle Dykes, Dumfries, was a native of Carsphairn. Born in low circumstances, and but little favoured with the blessings of an early education, he, nevertheless, by his natural talents and application to business, realized a princely fortune, which he bequeathed among many relatives, in a manner which did honour both to his head and heart. To the place of his nativity, he left L.500 for the benefit of the poor, and L.500, the interest of which was to increase the schoolmaster's salary;—both sums under the management of the minister and session.

*Land-owners.*—The heritors connected with this parish are eleven in number, of whom the principal are, the Honourable Colonel M. Cathcart of Craigengillan; Robert M'Millan, Esq. of Holm; Colonel Clarke of Knockgray, &c.

*Antiquities.*—There are scarcely any traces of antiquities in this parish, except some very large cairns. It is said, that, in removing some of these, stones in the form of coffins have been found, containing human bones. One of the largest is not far from the church, near the road leading to Dalmellington, on the farm of Holm of Dultallochan. On the same farm, and at no great distance, are found large stones forming a circle.

Near the Holm of Dalquhairn, on the estate of Mr M'Millan of Holm, there are a number of knolls, remarkable for their situation and the regularity of their forms. They are situate in the bottom of a deep valley, high mountains rising on two sides. They have the appearance of having been artificially formed; but closer observation will perhaps shew that they have been formed by debris from the surrounding hills. The name which they have always borne, is the Allwhannie Nowes.

### III.—POPULATION.

By census taken in 1755 the population was	609
1801,	496
1811,	459
1821,	474
1831,	542
1841,	790

### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—Surface draining has been carried on for several years to a considerable extent, and has in many cases considerably improved the sheep-walks, but the general appearance of the country is but little changed. It would be unjust, however, to say that

no improvement has been made in agriculture. Several farmers have laid a considerable quantity of lime upon those parts of their farms most suitable for ploughing, and have, in return, frequently had excellent crops. In April 1838, the ploughing match of the Glenkens Agricultural Society, took place on the farm of Holm, lying near the base of Cairnsmoor,—when about thirty iron ploughs of the most improved construction started, affording an exhibition such as Carsphairn never before witnessed on any of its fields. Silver medals were given,—one by the Highland Society, another by the Glenkens Society.

There is much land which might be made to produce good crops. The farmers have generally succeeded their fathers, and have been accustomed to follow the same mode of management. Their being continued in their farms by landlords, inferior to none in the country for intelligence, is a proof that the latter could not be much benefited by any change in the mode of farming. Much attention has been given to surface draining, and some attempts have been made to reclaim bog lands, not without success.

Neither attention nor expense has been spared in improving the breed of black-faced sheep. Attempts to introduce the white-faced breed, and some have been made, have not hitherto succeeded.

The flocks may be considered to have been improved in quality rather than increased in number, since the time when Mr Smith wrote the former account of the parish. He states the number of sheep to be at that time about 30,000, which may be nearly the average number at present.

The number of black-cattle is constantly changing. There are always a large number of Highland cattle kept during winter, which are generally forwarded to the English markets during the following summer.

Stone dikes are the only fences in the parish, and in no part of the country is the building of such fences better understood than in this neighbourhood.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

There is one small village, near by the church. Two small inns afford better accommodation than their external appearance would indicate. There is in the village one other licensed dealer in spirits,—and license has been given to a toll-keeper about two miles distant from the village.

*Post-Office.*—A post-office connecting this parish with Ayr was

established in the village, in August 1838. A two-horse coach from Dumfries to Ayr and from Ayr to Dumfries, on alternate days, passes through the village during the summer season. The roads throughout the parish are kept in tolerable repair, principally at the expense of the parish. The nearest market-towns are Ayr and Castle-Douglas, each about twenty-six miles distant.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church is situate nearly in the centre of the parish, and in the most convenient place for by far the greater portion of the inhabitants. There are many families about five miles distant, however,—some seven, and some even ten miles. The church is a very neat building, comfortable, and amply sufficient to contain the present population, being able to accommodate about 400 people. It was built about 1815, and was repaired at considerable expense in 1837. The manse consists of an old house, with a recent addition of two rooms. The rooms are but small, and the ceilings low; but, altogether, the manse is comfortable, and in tolerable repair. The glebe consists of about 13 acres, which may be valued at about L.2 per acre. The stipend is 15 chalders, half barley, half oatmeal, with L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements.

There are three families in the parish connected with the Reformed Presbytery, and one or two individuals who do not attend church, of whom it would be difficult to say to what sect they belong. Considering the distance at which many of the inhabitants are from the church, and the utter impossibility of either the young or very old of such families coming out during winter, the church may be said to be well attended.

*Education.*—There is only one endowed school in the parish. The schoolmaster has the maximum salary, and the legal allowance for house and garden. He likewise receives the interest of L.500, left by Mr M<sup>c</sup>Adam, late of Castle Dykes. Families at a distance from the parochial school sometimes unite together, to employ a young man, during winter, to teach their children. This is an expense which some of the poor people cannot well afford; but they manage in such a manner, that there are none in the parish who have attained to ten years of age without being able to read.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The number of poor on the session roll is 13; and there are some others who occasionally receive assistance. The highest allowance is about L.10, and the lowest about L.1, 10s. The funds from which the poor are sup-

plied are, 1st, the interest of about L.800 = L.20; 2d, annual collection in church, about L.18; 3d, annual donation from the Honourable Colonel Macadam Cathcart, L.15. The L. 800 is the amount of legacies left at different times, including the L.500 left by Mr M'Adam.

*Fuel.*—There are no coals in the parish; but they are obtained from coal-pits at Dalmellington, about eleven miles distant. Peats are more or less used by all the families in the parish.

*Drawn up 1839.*

*Revised 1844.*

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

There can be no doubt that cultivation might be considerably extended, and if the mining operations succeed, as they now promise to do, it is probable that a great change, and much improvement will be made upon the parish in a short time. Nothing has yet been done in the way of purifying the lead. The ore which has been extracted, lies in the state in which it was dug out; but preparations are beginning to be made for washing and purifying it, and it is presumed that no expense will be spared in carrying on the operations on the most approved plans. There is abundance of coal and lime upon the estates of the proprietor on the Ayrshire side, and it is hoped that an exchange favourable to Carsphairn may be made.

Since the preceding pages were written in 1839, Carsphairn has undergone a wonderful change, chiefly on account of the mining operations carried on within the parish. Since the operations commenced, the population has been nearly doubled. In that part of the parish in which lead was discovered, and in the bosom of a remote mountain, where the silence of nature was seldom broken, unless by the barking of the shepherd's dog, or the call of the shepherd, there is now a scene of industry and activity, which requires to be witnessed in order to be understood; and which cannot be contemplated without astonishment.

The proprietor of the mine, the Honourable Colonel M'Adam Cathcart, has spared no expense in obtaining all the necessary apparatus for crushing, washing, and smelting, on the most approved principles. The wheel used for moving the crushing apparatus is about 30 feet in diameter, driven by water obtained from the neighbouring mountains. The smelting furnaces are constructed on the most approved plan; and large houses have been built, and

preparations are making in them for separating the silver from the lead. The proprietor has been acting hitherto as if it were his object to exhibit the whole operations in the most perfect manner, rather than to enrich himself. It is to be hoped, however, that the liberal manner in which hitherto he has conducted the whole business, may meet with an ample reward. The Honourable Colonel M. Cathcart retains the mine entirely in his own hands. He has appointed skilful and steady men as overseers; and he takes pleasure in personally superintending the whole.

Everything is done by the proprietor to promote the comfort of the workmen. A large village has already been built upon the side of the hill, additions to which are still making; and from the situation which it occupies, and the cleanliness of its appearance, it presents a picturesque object to the traveller in passing among the wild mountains. The proprietor has likewise evidenced his liberality in his attention to the mental cultivation and moral improvement of the workmen.

Though there are workmen from different quarters, yet the greater part are from Leadhills and Wanlockhead,—men who had enjoyed the privilege of excellent libraries, and who regretted their separation from these means of entertainment and improvement. So soon as the Colonel and the Honourable Mrs Macadam Cathcart were made acquainted with their desire of forming a library, they sent a number of books, which laid an excellent foundation for a library, and which, by various means, is rapidly increasing. In addition to this, they have built an excellent school and schoolmaster's house; the school-house is more ample and commodious than any in the district, and they give a liberal salary both to the schoolmaster and female teacher.

The mining operations have changed Carsphairn from being one of the most rural and pastoral parishes in this country, into one of comparative bustle and activity. More money now circulates in one week than was circulated, a few years ago, in the course of the year. There are now two coaches passing daily, one from Ayr to Dumfries, and another from Dumfries to Ayr. There is likewise a coach from Carsphairn to Kirkcudbright on alternate days.

*March 1844.*

# PARISH OF PARTON.

PRESBYTERY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT, SYNOD OF GALLOWAY.

THE REV. W. G. CROSBIE, MINISTER.

## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name, Extent, &c.*—THE name "Parton," which this parish is said to have received before the end of the thirteenth century, is supposed to signify, in the Gaelic language, "the hill top," which is perfectly descriptive of the situation. Its greatest length from north to south is about 5 miles; its greatest breadth from east to west, about 7; and its whole area is about 28 square miles. It is bounded on the north by Balmaclellan; on the east by Kirkpatrick-Durham, from which it is separated by the small river Urr; on the south by Crossmichael; on the south-west by Balmaghie, from which it is separated by the Dee; on the north-west by Kells, from which it is separated by the Ken, a river that is in some places about half a mile broad. The general character of the parish, in point of surface, is very uneven, though there is no hill of considerable height, with the exception of Mochrum Fell, towards the northern part of the parish. There is a hill farther west, called "Cruckie Height," which affords an extensive and interesting view of the vale of Ken and Dee. The rich and varied scenery commanded from this point has been done great justice to, in a descriptive poem by the late Mr Gillespie of Kells.

*Hydrography.*—On the farm of North Dullarg, a chalybeate spring was discovered many years ago, and considerable attention was then directed to it; but, the property soon falling into other hands, it was neglected, and no effort has since been made to rescue it from oblivion. It is supposed to possess, in some degree, the qualities of the old well at Moffat. The Dee joins the Ken about half a mile above the church, and, though much smaller, it gives the name to the united river, which it retains till it enters the Solway Frith at Kirkcudbright. There is a variety of lochs in the parish, the principal being Corsock, Lurky Patiethorn, and



Falbej. They extend to a considerable depth, and are well stored with trout.

*Botany.*—There is an oak of remarkable size on the farm of Boreland. Its circumference round its trunk is 8 feet, and round the top of its branches is 300 feet. There is in Parton Wood, along the high road, a number of weeping birches, which are not surpassed by any thing of the kind in this part of the country.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Parochial Registers.*—A register of births and baptisms, commencing in the year 1714, has been kept in this parish, but not with much regularity, until the year 1744, when a complete register of marriages, births, and deaths commences, and extends to the year 1783; and from that to the present time, a register of births and baptisms only appears to have been regularly kept.

*Land-owners.*—These, with the valuations of their respective properties, are,—

	Scots money.
Miss Glendonwyn of Parton,	L.512 11 2
Lady Gordon of Letterfourie,	406 8 10
C. Maxwell, Esq. of Middlebie,	458 0 0
Edward Fletcher, Esq. of Corsock,	355 0 0

The total valuation of the parish amounts to L.2545 Scots.

*Antiquities.*—Near the church there is an artificial mount 120 yards in circumference at its base, and surrounded with a ditch from six to nine feet deep. About half a mile north there is another nearly twice the circumference of the former, and enclosed with two ditches. At a short distance from this, are the remains of a small Druidical circle. There are also two cairns in the parish.

On the estate of Corsock, in the eastern part of the parish, are the remains of an old castle, the residence of Robert Nelson of Corsock, who is made honourable mention of in the “Scots Worthies,” as one who suffered severely in the cause of the covenant. It is now in a very dilapidated state, little indeed remaining but an old tower.

The old church, which was superseded by the erection of a new one in 1834, was built in 1592. It was 72 feet long, by 14 wide. The half of it still remains, and the interior of it has been converted into a burial-place by two of the heritors of the parish.

On the farm of Arvie, there is a flat stone about three feet in diameter, on which are the marks of what might be supposed a cow's foot, a horse shoe, the four nails on each side being very

distinct, and the impression which might be made by a man's foot and knee while he was in the act of kneeling, the knot of the garter being quite evident. The tradition connected with this remarkable stone, commonly called the "Cow Clout," is, that the proprietor, in order to get up arrears of rent, "drave the pun," or, in other words, carried off the hypothecated stock, while a fierce resistance was made by the people, and that over this stone, on which a man had just been praying for relief against his enemies, the cattle passed followed by an officer on horseback, and that it remains as a memorial to posterity of the cruel deed.

Across the river Dee, just below its junction with the Ken, there is a causey, which is evidently a work of art.

*Land-owners.*—There are twelve land-owners in all, five of whom are resident. The total valuation of the parish amounts to £.2545. The patroness of the parish is Miss Glendonwyn of Parton. Her ancestor, Sir Simon Glendonwyn, in 1458, obtained a confirmation of the barony, baronial rights, and patronage of Parton.

### III.—POPULATION.

Amount in 1801,	-	426
1811,	-	569
1821,	-	845
1831,	-	927
1841,	-	808

The great increase of the population from 1811 to 1821, appears chiefly to have arisen from the subdivision of the farms and the increased cultivation of the lands on the estate of Corsock. The people are almost all engaged in agriculture, and are in general of sober and industrious habits.

### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—About 9290 acres, including meadow and interspersed with waste land, are under cultivation. 5800 acres consist principally of heath and morasses. Perhaps from 500 to 600 acres are capable of cultivation, the greater part of which lies in the interior of the parish, and the great obstacle to the improvement of which is the want of roads.

The average rent of land per acre does not exceed 7s.

The real rental of the parish in the year 1821 was £.6000, but it is now reduced, perhaps, to little more than £.5000.

*Quarry.*—There is a slate-quarry in the neighbourhood of the church, which has been in operation upwards of thirty years, and has given employment to eight or ten workmen. The slates are of good quality, and extensively used. The rent of the quarry at

one time exceeded L.100; but it has been reduced, on account of the reduction of the duty on the English slates.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Town.*—Castle-Douglas is the nearest market-town, and is six or seven miles distant. It affords an excellent market, both for grain and cattle. The high road from Castle-Douglas to New Galloway passes through the western part of the parish; and the high road from Dumfries to New Galloway passes through the eastern part. There is a daily post along the western line. There is a coach on this road communicating with one from Dumfries to Ayr.

Dalbeattie and Palnackie are the nearest ports, and are at a distance of about twelve miles. Almost the whole of the lime, and a portion of the coals used in the parish, are brought from these ports.

*Fuel.*—The fuel principally used is peat, which the parish supplies in great abundance.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The stipend is eight chalders of barley and eight chalders of meal.

The glebe is sixteen acres in extent, and valued at L.25 Sterling. The manse was built in 1777, and has had two additions made to it since. It is now commodious and in good repair.

The church is situated, like most in the neighbourhood, on the banks of the Dee, and is therefore put at the extremity of the parish. A considerable effort was made by a portion of the heritors to have it removed to the interior, at the period of its being rebuilt in 1834, but, as heritors holding more than one-fourth of the valuation opposed it, the proposal was abandoned. A chapel on the banks of the Urr was subsequently built, and a preacher has been supplying regular service, supported partly by seat rents, and partly by the liberality of Major Fletcher, Esq. of Corsock. There are localities connected with it in Balmaclellan and Kirkpatrick-Durham, as well as in Parton, upwards of four miles from the parish churches; so that, if a new parish *quoad sacra* is disjoined, it will embrace a part of all these parishes, and be of considerable extent.

*Education.*—There are two parochial schools in the parish. One of the masters has L.31, 6s. 8d., and the other L.20 of salary, both subject, however, to a deduction of L.4, 3s. 4d. each as an annuity payable to a retired teacher. The fees actually paid to the schoolmasters do not exceed L.25, and they have no other emoluments.

*Poor.*—The average number of poor for the last three years, 17; average amount allotted to each, about L.3, 15s. per annum. Average annual amount of contributions for their relief, L.64, 14s., viz. L.24, 8s. of church collections, and L.40, 6s. from voluntary assessment by the heritors on an average for the last three years.

March 1844.

## PARISH OF LOCHRUTTON.

FRESBYTERY OF DUMFRIES, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.

THE REV. THOMAS INGLIS, MINISTER.

### L.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—LOCHRUTTON derives its name from a lake or loch in the centre of the parish. The word *Rutton* is supposed to signify, in the Gaelic language, the *straight road*. The great road to Ireland through the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright formerly passed close by this loch. This road is now little frequented, a new and better line having been formed many years ago. The new road passes also through the parish, and at a short distance from the loch.

*Boundaries, Figure, and Extent.*—The parish is of an elliptical form, and is computed to contain  $13\frac{1}{2}$  square miles; being  $4\frac{1}{2}$  long, from east to west; and 3 broad, from north to south. It is bounded by the parishes of New Abbey and Troquire, on the south and east; Terregles and Irongray, on the north; Urr and Kirkgunzeon, on the west. Towards its boundaries on the south, east, and west, the land rises, forming a sort of undulating ring round the parish in these parts, but falling towards the north. These high grounds are mostly arable. The rest of the parish lies in a valley consisting of arable land, interspersed with knolls, mosses and meadows.

*Hydrography.*—The lake or loch from which the parish has its name, extends to 123 acres, 2 roods, and 4 falls Scots statute measure. It is a mile in length, and at an average about a mile in breadth, and twelve feet in depth. In the middle of it, there is a small island about half a rood in extent, and of a circular form.

This seems to have been, in part at least, artificial. Over its whole surface there is a collection of large stones which have been gathered from the neighbouring fields, resting on a frame of oak planks. The scenery of the lake is bleak, from want of wood in the surrounding lands and the more distant heights. From the lake there issues a small stream, which, after being joined by others, and having pursued its course for a mile or two, receives the name of Cargen water, and falls into the Nith below Drumfries.

There is a small chalybeate spring in the parish, called the Markland well. It is effectual in removing agues, stomach complaints and nervous disorders. It is exceedingly light, very diuretic, and an excellent restorer of appetite. During summer and in the beginning of autumn, it is resorted to by persons in the ordinary and humble walks of life.

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—The rock is mostly schist and whinstone. It is frequently soft and clayey, particularly near the surface. It is used for building houses and dikes. The soil on it in general is shallow loam. It may be considered neither very barren nor very fertile.

*Zoology.*—The fishes in the lake are eels, pike, and perches. Trouts have been caught in it, but rarely. The eels are caught in quantities, particularly in autumn, by a large wooded chest placed in the sluice at the foot of the lake, with openings at the bottom.

The migratory birds in the parish are the woodcock, cuckoo, swallow, and sea-gull or mew. The sea-gulls frequent the island in the lake, in spring and summer, and cover it all over with their nests. They make their appearance in spring, and disappear in the beginning of autumn.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Land-owners.*—The heritors are thirteen in number; the chief of whom are Marmaduke Constable Maxwell of Terregles, and James Murray M'Culloch of Ardwall, neither of whom reside in the parish.

*Parochial Registers.*—The parochial registers date one hundred and thirty-six years back. They are not voluminous, but have been pretty regularly kept.

*Antiquities.*—The vestige of a Druidical temple is to be seen upon a hill at the eastern extremity of the parish. This spot is called the Seven gary stones; though, in fact, there are nine

stones surrounding a rising ground, and forming a circle of seventy feet diameter.

One ancient tower remains entire, and is mentioned in a Scots chronicle published in the reign of James VI., by the name of the Castle of Hills. The area before the entrance is enclosed, and over the gate a porter's lodge was erected. When this tower was built, is uncertain; but on a corner stone of the lodge, which seems to be of more modern construction, the year 1598 is inscribed.

### III.—POPULATION.

The population in 1728 was	480
1755, according to Dr Webster,	564
1790,	528
1801,	514
1811,	562
1821,	594
1831,	650
1841,	659

The chief cause of the increase of the population has been the increase of feus or inhabited houses, chiefly in the village of Lochfoot, the only village in the parish. The population of the village amounts to 96.

### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—The parish contains upwards of 6000 acres Scots statute measure.

The number of acres, arable and meadow, is supposed to be	5165
in mooses,	278
in woods,	209
not arable,	400
	<hr/> 6052

*Rent of Land.*—The land rent of the parish is L. 4000 The average rent per acre of most of the farms is from 10s. to L. 1. The highest rent of any farm in the parish is L. 230, and the lowest L. 40.

*Leases, &c.*—There are few or none of the farms let for a shorter period than fifteen years, and none for a longer. They are all divided from one another by march-dikes, and many of them well subdivided, and also suitably accommodated with houses.

There are two mills in the parish; one for grinding oats and barley, and the other for dressing flax. They are both driven by the stream that runs from the lake. To the flax mill are attached a small circular saw for sawing timber, and machinery for carding wool. Both are driven by the wheel of the mill.

Oat seed, if the season answer, is begun to be sown on the se-

cond or third week of March, and potatoes to be planted about the middle of April, and barley to be sown towards the end of it or beginning of May, and turnips towards the middle of June.

*Raw Produce.*—The average gross amount of raw produce raised in the parish may be as follows :

Oats, 30,353 Winchester bushels, at 2s. per bushel,	L.3035	6	0
Barley, 956 do. do. at 3s. per do.	143	8	0
Potatoes, 2380 bolls, 8 cwt. to the boll, at 1s. per cwt.	952	0	0
Hay meadow, 49,060 stones, at 4d. per stone,	817	15	6
Eye grass, 30,346 do. at 6d. per do.	758	13	4
Turnips, 27 acres, at L.3 per acre,	81	0	0
Land in pasture, rating it at L.4 per cow,	2148	0	0
Sheep, 140, at L.1, 10s. per sheep,	210	0	0
	<hr/>		
Total yearly value of raw produce,	L.8146	2	10

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Town.*—Dumfries is the nearest market and post town. It lies about four miles eastward. There the farmers sell their grain, cattle, and horses. A great proportion of the cattle are bought to be sent to England. The parish not only supplies itself with provisions, but a considerable quantity of oats and barley is disposed of in the Dumfries market, and generally bought to be exported to England, chiefly Liverpool. The pork fed in the parish, which is considerable, is sold also in Dumfries, and sent to Newcastle chiefly.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church was built in 1819, and is in a very good state of repair. It affords accommodation for upwards of 300 sitters. It is sufficient for the present population of the parish. There are no free sittings in it. It is distant only a little more than a mile from the eastern and northern extremities of the parish; but more than three from the southern and western. The number of families belonging to the Established Church is 109. The average yearly amount of the collections for the last five years for charitable and religious purposes, L.2, 9s.

There are 14 Cameronians, 17 Seceders, 9 Roman Catholics, and 3 Independents in the parish.

The manse is partly old and partly new. The old part was built in 1777, the new in 1809. Both parts were repaired lately. The glebe is about ten acres in extent, very much broken with knolls, and may be worth L.10 yearly. The teind is exhausted, and the stipend, valued in money, amounts to L.182, 6s. 4d.

Mr Thomas Inglis, the present incumbent, was admitted from the parish of Dunscore to Lochrutton in 1807. His predecessors in Lochrutton, as far as they can be traced, were, Alexander Train, member of the General Assembly at Glasgow in 1638;

Mr Johnstone, who held the pastoral office in Lochrutton about 1662; Mr John Gillespie, curate, who died in 1682; Mr John Willox, ejected at the Revolution; Mr John Reid, the first Presbyterian minister after the Revolution, who was ordained in 1691, and died in 1727, having held the ministerial office thirty-six years; and Mr George Duncan, who was ordained in 1728, and died in 1765, having held that office thirty-seven years. He was succeeded by his son, Mr George Duncan, the late minister, who was ordained in 1766, and died in 1807.

*Education.*—The parochial teacher has a salary of L. 30, with a dwelling-house of the legal dimensions, and the interest of L. 62, 14s. 2½d. of mortified money. The school fees may amount to L. 15 per annum. Though the parochial school be not inconveniently situated for the greater part of the population, there is generally a small school kept in the most distant corner of the parish for such children as cannot attend the parochial school, especially in the winter season. A very small sum was mortified for this school by the Rev. Mr George Duncan, minister of this parish, and the late minister's father. There are none in the parish who cannot read, and few who cannot write.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The annual amount of the funds for the relief of the poor may be about L. 20,—out of which sum seven persons receive a regular allowance, at an average of more than L. 2 to each per annum. Six others receive aid occasionally from these funds. The proportion of the poor to the whole population is as 1 to 50. None of the poor beg from door to door; but scarcely a day passes, that the parish is not visited by vagrant poor from neighbouring parishes, but chiefly from Ireland. The parochial poor are unwilling to apply for aid, and refrain from doing so until it becomes a matter of necessity. But it is thought that this disinclination is not increasing among them.

*Alshouses.*—There are four in the parish.

*Fuel.*—The fuel commonly used is peat. There are several mosses in the parish, from which the farmers are allowed the privilege of cutting what fuel they need, but not to sell any. There is, however, one moss which is let to a tenant for fuel, who not only cuts a great many peats himself for sale, but also lets a part of it yearly to persons in the parish and neighbourhood for cutting them. They are sold at from 2s. 6d. to 3s. a cart load.

*February 1841.*



## PARISH OF GIRTHON.

PRESBYTERY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT, SYNOD OF GALLOWAY.

THE REV. GEORGE MURRAY, MINISTER.\*

---

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THE word Girthon (anciently written Girton) is of Celtic origin, being an abbreviation of *Girth-avon*, the enclosure or sanctuary (for the term *Gir* or *Girth* may bear either of these two significations) on the river. It is supposed that a village, with a sanctuary attached to it, existed in early times at the passage of the Fleet. The correctness of this derivation is rendered the more probable from the circumstance, that the neighbouring parish of Anwoth, which is divided from Girthon by the Fleet, was originally *Avonwaith*, the course or channel of the river. (*Chalmers's Caledonia*, Vol. iii. p. 339.) The term Avon, the original name of the river, was afterwards changed by the Anglo-Saxons (who had possession of Galloway for nearly 400 years previous to 820) to Fleet or Fleot,—a word of synonymous import.

*Boundaries, &c.*—Girthon is bounded on the east by Borgue, Twynholm, and Balmaghie; on the north, by Kells and Minnigaff; on the west, by Kirkmabreck and Anwoth; and on the south, by the Irish Sea. Its length is 16 miles: its breadth varies from 2 miles on the south, to 5 miles towards the north. The number of imperial acres in the parish is 15,480.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The physical appearance of the parish is varied. About three-fourths of it is mountainous, bleak, and heathy, with but few spots devoted to tillage, or capable of producing corn. The remainder, chiefly on the south, though undulating, is rich, fertile, and susceptible of raising the best crops; but is chiefly occupied in grazing cattle.

*Hydrography.*—There are several fresh water lochs in the parish, namely, Loch Greanoch, nearly three miles long, by an ave-

\* Drawn up by Thomas Murray, LL.D. Author of "*The Literary History of Galloway.*"

rage of about half a mile in breadth ; Loch Skero, about half a mile square ; the two Lochs Fleet. These lakes are all situated on the high mountain range on the north of the parish. Loch Whinnyan is on the east, on the borders of Twynholm. From each of the Lochs Fleet a streamlet flows ; and these uniting form what is called the Little Water of Fleet. After a course of a few miles, this stream is joined by a similar small river, termed the Great Water of Fleet. From these the Fleet is formed, which, dividing Girthon from Anwoth, discharges itself, after many windings, into the Fleet Bay, an estuary of the Irish Sea. This river is navigable for vessels of 160 tons burden, to the town of Gatehouse of Fleet, a distance of about three miles. In order to facilitate the navigation to Gatehouse, and to reclaim a considerable portion of land, which, at high water, was covered by the sea, Mr Murray of Broughton has constructed a canal, which, besides gaining the two objects in question, has greatly shortened the distance between the Fleet Bay and the town. Of this canal, which was begun on the 17th of June 1824, and opened on the 3d of October following, the length is 1400 yards. The cost was calculated by an eminent engineer at about L.5000, and the time required for constructing it, to be two summers. But Alexander Craig, Esq., then Mr Murray's factor, and whose ingenuity is well known, setting his local knowledge in opposition to the science of the engineer, cut a narrow trough along the centre of the projected line of the canal, and of nearly the depth to which it was to be excavated, into which he forced the water of the Fleet. The result corresponded with Mr Craig's anticipations ; for, in the course of only two days, the river formed a channel for itself of the exact width and depth required ; and the total expense, instead of being L.5000, was greatly under the half of that sum,—being only L.2204, 3s. 5d. ! Nor is this all : no repairs have since been necessary to maintain or secure the banks of the canal so rapidly and singularly formed. There is another remarkable circumstance in connexion with the construction of this work. A rock on each side of its banks, directly opposite to each other, and nearly level with the bottom, jutted out ; and on these rocks the pins of a swing bridge have been erected, which affords great convenience to the neighbourhood, and has enabled Mr Murray to remove the parish road from his domain. Thirty-six acres intervened between the line of the canal and the bed of the river, of which 15 belonged to Anwoth ; and the quantity of land reclaimed

is no less than 170 acres, now forming one of the most fertile and productive farms in Girthon. At the mouth of Fleet Bay are two small islands, uninhabited, but pastured by sheep, commonly called Murray's Isles (in honour of the proprietor), but more properly the Isles of Fleet. The shores of Fleet Bay and Irish Sea are generally sandy or alluvial, though, in some places, they are rocky; but there are, properly speaking, no headlands.

*Climate.*—The air and climate vary with the soil and surface. In the high lands, they are cold and severe; in the low lands, mild and agreeable. Rain is frequent. But, on the whole, the climate is regarded as salubrious; and instances of longevity are common. There are no diseases peculiar to the locality. Cholera made its appearance in 1832; but there were only three deaths.

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—Girthon resembles, in these particulars, the adjoining districts,—the upper part of the parish being composed of granite,—the lower part of slaty schistous rock, easily decomposed, having many granite boulders lying on the surface, or slightly imbedded in the soil. The junction of the granite and schistous rocks runs across the parish. A slate quarry was opened about twenty-seven years ago on the farm of Culreoch by the proprietor, and the parish church, built in 1817, is covered with slate from that quarry; but it has not been worked, because slate from Westmoreland, Lancashire, and Wales can be had as cheap, if not cheaper, than from this source. About twenty-five years ago, a vein of copper ore was accidentally opened on the lands of Enrig, of a rich quality. A lease of it was taken by a company from Wales, who expended a considerable sum of money on works there. No vein of any magnitude has yet been hit upon, but numerous crests of rich ore discovered, several cargoes of which have been sent to Swansea, where it is used as a flux in smelting purer copper ores.

*Zoology.*—Char, a very rare species of fish, abounds in Loch Greanoch. It is not caught either with bait or fly, but with the net. Loch Skero is remarkable for pike. Salmon is caught in the Fleet, but only to a trifling extent. Flounders abound in the river, and at its mouth. The isles of Fleet are productive of excellent oysters. The cows are of the well-known Galloway breed. The sheep are, with few exceptions, of the small moor kind. Various sorts of game and wild animals abound;—grouse, blackcocks, partridges, hares, rabbits, woodcocks, badgers, foxes

and polecats. Pheasants have been introduced at Cally, the seat of Mr Murray of Broughton, and seem to thrive well. There is a deer park, extending to nearly 500 acres. The water eagle, or osprey, or bald buzzard (the *Falco Haliaetus* of Linnæus), frequents Lochs Skero and Greanoch, and builds on the islets which these lochs contain. The crested heron, a species of piscivorous water-fowl, haunts the different lochs in the northern district of the parish.

*Botany.*—Under this head, there is nothing peculiar to Girthon, the botany of the hilly district to which this parish belongs being similar throughout. The quantity of wood in the parish extends to nearly 1000 acres; and of this, about a third (namely, that on the south side of Barhill, on Disdow hill, and at Kindown,) has been planted since the beginning of the present century. There is also a considerable quantity of natural wood in Boreland, Sylloch, Carstammon, and a few other places.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Historical Notices.*—In 1300, Edward I. resided for several days at the town of Fleet, probably on or near the site of the present Gatehouse. At this place the inhabitants endeavoured to stop his progress; but, being repulsed by a superior force, and by greater military skill, they fled to the woods and mountains. (*Walsingham, Hist. Reg. Angliæ*, p. 78.) From Henry, the miller, who rented the mill of Gerthon (Girthon), the king exacted 13s. 4d. for some "malversations" that had been detected in his mill. He exacted also, from the town of Flete (Fleet), 40s. for their bad measures and other transgressions. This mill of Girthon is thought to be the same with the ancient "mill of the lake," within the farm of Rainton, about three miles south of Gatehouse. But, as if in compensation for these severities, Edward offered, on the 9th August, an oblation of 7s. at the altar of Girthon, and repeated the offering next day. (*Murray's Literary History of Galloway*, 1st ed. 1822, p. 348.)

The inhabitants of Girthon seemed to have been exposed to severe exactions and persecution during the reigns of Charles II. and his successor, James VII. On the Restoration, not only were the people deprived by the Government of their minister, Mr William Erskine, (of whom we shall soon speak more at length); but they were exposed to severe pecuniary exactions and other sufferings on account of their attachment to Presbytery. In 1666, for example, "nine poor families" were fined in L. 525, 10s. 4d.

**Scots.** (*Wodrow's Church Hist.* Vol. ii. p. 10.) At another time, John Logan of Enrig, and John Cannan, in Guffockland, were each fined £240. (*Ib.* i. 278). Graham of Claverhouse, in 1684, surprised six persons who were concealing themselves at Auchencloy, near Loch Skero, and instantly shot four of them. One of them (from Nithsdale) was buried on the spot where he fell; and a humble tombstone, lying flat on the ground, was subsequently erected to his memory,\* bearing the following inscription:—

“ MEMENTO MORI.

“ Here lies Robert Fergusson, who was surprized and instantly shot to death on this place, by Graham of Claverhouse, for his adherence to Scotland's Reformation, Covenants, National and Solemn League. 1684.”

In the churchyard of Girthon, in the tomb, formerly of the Lennoxes of Cally, and now of the family of Broughton, was buried Robert Lennox of Drumruck, † who also suffered for conscience sake, as the following inscription, on a small upright stone at the mouth of the vault, testifies:—

“ Within this tomb lyes the corps of Robert Lenox, some time in Irelandtown, who was shot to death by Grieer of Lagg, in the paroch of Tounghland, for his adherence to Scotland's Reformation Covenants, National Covenants, National and Solemn League. 1685.”

*Eminent Characters.*—Mr William Erskine was minister of Girthon at the period of the Restoration. Having refused to conform to Prelacy, he was ejected from the parish in 1663, in which year nearly 400 Presbyterian clergymen, whose names are recorded in *Wodrow* (i. p. 324), were ousted from their several charges, from the same cause. He was sentenced to confine himself within the parish of Carsphairn. Having ventured to leave his place of confinement, and taken refuge in Teviotdale, he was declared a fugitive, in 1671; and in the following year, letters of intercommuning having been issued against him, he was apprehended, and

\* On the 16th August 1835, the late incumbent of the parish preached a sermon (since published,) in the immediate vicinity of this tombstone, on which occasion a collection was made for erecting a more suitable monument to the memory of the martyr; an object which has since been accomplished by means of the collection in question, and public subscriptions.

† This Robert Lennox, in the year previous to his martyrdom, granted a disposition of Drumruck, which he had inherited from his father, in favour of David Lennox, merchant in Kirkeudbright, and retired to Irelandton, in the neighbouring parish of Twynholm. Robert Lennox was great grandson of John Lennox, the fourth of Cally, who died in 1647. (*Case of Margaret Lennox of Woodhead.* Edin. 1818. 4to. P. 30-3.)

lodged in Stirling Castle, from which, at the end of four years, he was transported to Dumbarton Castle. In 1679, he was liberated. He was again apprehended, and confined a close prisoner in Blackness Castle; from which place he sent a petition to the Privy-Council, stating, among other things, "that he was now turned valetudinary; therefore craving the Council's compassion." The only redress he obtained was the liberty of "walking about the castle, and taking the air with a keeper." He was alive at the Revolution; but whether he afterwards was inducted into a parish charge, is not known. It is certain, at least, that he did not return to Girthon. (*Ib.* 286, iii. 406, iv. 38.)

Captain James Dennistoun of Creetown, author of "Legends of Galloway," and of a poem entitled "Battle of Craignilder," and Mr John Faed, an eminent miniature painter, are natives of this parish,—the former having been born at Cruffock, the latter at Barlay.

*Land-owners.—Family of Broughton.*—Alexander Murray of Broughton, M. P. for the stewartry of Kirkcudbright, is proprietor of the entire parish. Cally, about a mile south of Gatehouse, is the residence of the family. The earliest proprietor of Cally that can be correctly ascertained was named Stewart: he descended, in the thirteenth century, from the illustrious family of the High Steward of Scotland. The title, which this Gallovidian branch of the Stewarts bore, was that of Stewart of Kalecht-Girton, or sometimes of Kalecht, (now Cally,) and Girton. This family, after a lapse of nearly two centuries, terminated in a female, Elizabeth, only daughter and heiress of Sir John Stewart of Cally, and this lady having married Donald de Levenax, or Lennox, son to the Earl of Levenax,\* the property passed into a new family, and the name of Lennox, which was eminent for upwards of 300 years afterwards, was then first introduced into the province.† Donald Lennox, who died in 1454, is termed *Dominus de Girthon et nobilis vir*. John, the seventh of Cally, had

\* The houses of Lennox and of Stewart were previously connected by marriage, as the wife of Sir John Stewart of Girthon, mentioned in the text, and who fell at the siege of Orleans in 1429, was a daughter of the former family.—(*Douglas's Peerage*, i. 614.)

† In addition to the family of Cally, there were Lennoxes of Plunton, Drumwall, Drumruck, Tanniefad, Disdow, and all of them descended of the Cally branch; but there has not been, with a single exception, since the year 1706, (when William Lennox of Drumwall sold that property to Alexander Murray of Broughton,) a landed proprietor of the name of Lennox in Galloway. The son of William Lennox of Drumwall became tenant of that farm, and died in 1713, aged forty-eight.—(*Case of Margaret Lennox, ut supra*, 30-3.)

a family of one son and daughter, the latter, (Anna,) being married to Richard Murray of Broughton. John Lennox\* renounced all right and title to his various estates, and conveyed them to his son-in-law, the laird of Broughton, and his son Robert afterwards concurred in the destination. The residence of Richard Murray, which had previously been at Broughton, in Wigtonshire, was transferred to Cally, which has ever since continued the seat of the Murray family.

The founder of the family of Murray of Broughton came from Morayshire and settled at Broughton, Wigtonshire, in the twelfth century, since which time they have ranked among the magnates of Galloway. The first lands which they acquired in the stewartry of Kirkcudbright, were obtained by a marriage with a daughter of Murray of Cockpool, (Dumfries-shire). The lands thus obtained, and which still belong to the family, were Kirkarsel and others in the parish of Rerrick; and one of the monks of Dundrennan having been suspected of improper intimacy with "Lady Broughton," her husband slew him at a place called Allan's Cross till this day. Murray was obliged to pay a fine, as a compensation for the murder, to the abbey, which fine (£10,) has continued to be, and is still paid to the Crown since the demolition of the monastery. George Murray of Broughton was one of the Lords of the Bed-chamber to James VI., and, for his further services, had various grants of land given him in Ireland, (which still belong to the family,) as also several superiorities in Scotland, (Nisbet's Heraldry, i. 256.) Richard Murray, who married the heiress of Cally, died in 1690; and Alexander Murray, M. P., the present representative of the family, is his great grandson. There are no collateral descendants of the Lennoxes of Cally or Murrays of Broughton known to exist.

*Cally.*—This mansion, one of the most splendid seats in Scotland belonging to a private gentleman, is built (1768) wholly of granite, being the first attempt of working that kind of stone in the south of Scotland. It was constructed after a design by Milne the architect, but has been modernised and signally improved by its present proprietor. It contains a good collection of pictures, and in its unrivalled marble vestibule, are some fine pieces of sculpture, including a noble head of Bonaparte by Thor-

\* This John Lennox, previously to his succeeding to the Cally estates, was designed of Plunton, or more commonly Lennox-Plunton, in the parish of Borgue. He was the lineal representative of Thomas Lennox of Plunton, second son of John, the fourth of Cally.—(*Case of Margaret Lennox, ut supra, 30-3.*)

waldsen. The ruins of the ancient mansion are still pretty entire, about half a mile distant to the north from the present building. The garden occupies about three acres within the walls. The pleasure grounds extend to twenty acres; but the family have a private road extending for several miles within the adjoining parks, which are retained either in the hands of the proprietor, or are let as grass parks. The orchard grounds, particularly at the old mansion-house, are extensive. There is a deer park, nearly a mile square, within less than a mile of Cally, on the south. In addition to herds of deer, it contains a few of the ancient Caledonian breed of cattle, procured from the stock of the Duke of Hamilton.

*Antiquities.*—There are no antique buildings extant in the parish, with the exception of the old mansion-house of Cally, already mentioned. At Enrig, there was a house dependent on the abbacy of Tongland, and which, it is supposed, formed the occasional residence of its abbots; and, after the Reformation, of the Bishop of Galloway. Its site is still known yet as the “Palace Yard.” Some old plane trees are growing, having a foliage different from those now propagated. The palace had apparently been surrounded by a ditch and wall, one of the arched gates having been standing, within the memory of a person intimately known to the present writer. There are several small moats in the parish, locally called “doons;” one in Bush Park, another in Enrig, and a third in Castrammon.

### III.—POPULATION.

The population of Girthon has greatly increased within the last eighty-five years. In 1755, it was 367; in 1841, it was 1872, having been more than quintupled in the interval between these two periods. No village or town existed in the parish at the former date; and the then proprietor of Cally, Alexander Murray, Esq., had not long previously ejected a great number of small tenants occupying a great part of the lower end of the parish, and converted their farms into grazing ground, in which state they still continue. The existing rural population, as is stated in the following table, is 495, so that the increase under this head is only 128.

Number of the population residing in Gatehouse,	-	1377
the country,	-	495

Total population of the parish,	-	1872
---------------------------------	---	------

The number of families in the parish is 419, so that the ave-



rage proportion of individuals to a family is  $4\frac{1}{2}$ . The number of inhabited houses is 263; in other words, the average of individuals to a house is  $7\frac{5}{8}$ . This great proportion is owing to the circumstance that several of the houses in Gatehouse having common stairs, or at least a common entrance, are tenanted by more than one family; in some few instances by three or four. The following table shows the relative proportion of births, marriages, and deaths, for the three years ending in 1839 :

Years.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.
1837,	58	9	50
1838,	56	7	44
1839,	44	17	25

By taking the average of these three years, we find that the births are about 1 to every 36 of the population; the marriages, 1 to every 170; and the deaths, 1 to every 48; the proportion of births being greater than the average of England and Wales; of marriages, less; and of deaths, less; a good proof of the salubrity of the climate, and the prudence of the people in their formation of marriage connections, as also of the physical comforts which they enjoy. (Second Annual Report of the Registrar-General. London, 1840.) But no perfectly sound conclusion, we confess, can be drawn from so limited a population as that of Girthon, particularly when embracing so short a space as three years.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 20 years of age,	449	450	899
Above Do.	412	570	982
Totals,	861	1011	1872

The excess of females as compared to males, is 150. The number of tradesmen in the parish is 105, exclusive of apprentices; of labourers in Gatehouse, 56; while the whole rural population, with the exception of the farmers, may be considered as labourers. The number of illegitimate births within the last three years is 15, or, on an average, 5 annually; but some of the cases, though registered in the session book, do not actually belong to the parish.

*Character of the People.*—There are no customs, games, or amusements peculiar to this parish. The belief in witches, fairies, brownies, dreams, and other superstitions, once universal in Galloway, has not been entirely laid aside; particularly on the part of the older and more remote inhabitants. The houses of the people, particularly those of the farmers, are, in general, good and substantial. All classes enjoy, in a reasonable degree, the

comforts and advantages of civilized life, and are contented with their situation and circumstances. The duties of morality and religion are, on the whole, scrupulously practised ; and instances of crime or gross immorality are very rare. The people are, in general, intelligent, given to reading, and exert themselves to give the best education to their children. A very considerable number of young men, (many of them of humble origin,) have, during the last fifty years, after having received a good education, left the parish in order to push their fortunes in England, or abroad, and have, by their excellent conduct and success in life, done honour to the early advantages which they enjoyed. Perhaps no teacher, in a comparatively remote parish, has educated a greater number of such enterprising and respectable persons than Mr John Armstrong, who, a few years before his death, which took place in 1841, retired from his situation as parochial schoolmaster, which he had filled with honour to himself and advantage to the community upwards of forty years, and whom his old scholars have ever regarded with gratitude and affection, both for his eminent talents and the blandness of his manners. But while so many Girthonians have distinguished themselves in the way to which we have referred, the parish has not, till comparatively recent times, produced any who have prosecuted any of the learned professions. The writer of this account knows of only one instance in the last century, of a native of Girthon having attended a Scotch university ; but within the last thirty years, no fewer than eight persons, natives of the parish, (all educated by Mr Armstrong, except one,) have studied at the University of Edinburgh. Of these, two are dead, one is in the United States of America, and another is still undergoing his studies : the remaining four are settled in life in Scotland.

Poaching is very strictly prohibited by the proprietor of the parish ; but when game so much abounds, it is hardly possible to eradicate so demoralizing a practice. Smuggling of tea, ardent spirits, wine, and other articles, from the Ise of Man, systematically prevailed here, (as it did along the whole Galloway coast,) to a very great extent, about fifty years ago ; but such a character as a smuggler does not now exist ; though many traditions as to exploits in this way are still current. Pawnbroking has never obtained in the parish.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

The total number of imperial acres in the parish is 15,480 ; of

which the quantity cultivated may be about 4000; leaving the remainder, or 9480 acres, either as waste or in permanent sheep pasture. There neither is, nor ever has been, any land in the parish in a state of undivided common. The total rental of Girthon, putting a reasonable value on the house and garden of Cally, may be estimated at L.5000, making an average of about 6s. 6d. per imperial acre. The total old valuation of the parish in the cess book is L.3281, 3s. 6d. Scots, or L.273, 8s. 7½d. Sterling. The average rate of grazing is, for a cow, L.3; for a ewe or full-grown sheep, 3s.

The following table must be regarded as only an approximation to the truth, as the amounts are necessarily variable, to a greater or less extent, almost every year.

Farms.	Sheep, in scores.	No. of horses.	No. of cattle.
Roundfell,	22	none.	3
Orchars,	66	2	20
Barniewater,	25	1	25
Grobdale,	25	2	30
Laghead,	40	4	40
Culreoch,	60	5	60
Murrayton,	85	5	60
Carstammon,	none.	2	5
Lagg,	2	2	20
Laigh Creoch,	3	4	40
High Creoch,	10	3	30
Little Barlay,	8	3	30
Barlay,	2	3	50
Flerog,	none.	1	10
Disdow,	3	4	50
Cairn,	8	4	25
Drumwall,	2	3	30
Upper Drumwall,	1	2	12
Townhead,	2	3	60
Enrig,	2	4	70
Clauchan,	1	3	50
Girthon Kirk,	1	2	40
Bainton,	3	5	90
Boreland,	2	4	70
Syllodoch,	none.	2	30
Cally Mains,	3	6	100
Cally,	12	5	80
Totals,	388 scores.	84	1130

The duration of leases extends to nineteen years; and the old tenants on Mr Murray's estates generally are seldom removed, the progenitors of several of the existing farmers having held lands on the estate for successive generations. The farm-buildings and inclosures in the parish are generally in a respectable and efficient state; and the most liberal encouragement is afforded by the proprietor to his tenants.

*Fisheries.*—The Fleet produces salmon and grilse; but the fishery is seldom let; and, when let, only for a nominal sum.

*Manufactures.*—The late James Murray, Esq. of Broughton, who, as shall soon be more particularly stated, exerted himself to make Gatehouse a flourishing town, was the means of introducing the cotton manufacture into this place in 1790; in which year, he held out encouragement to Messrs Birtwhistle and Sons, from Yorkshire, who erected two cotton mills, which, with an interval of nearly twenty years subsequently to 1810, have ever since been in active operation. They have, for upwards of twelve years, been held in lease from the representatives of the original firm by Messrs James Davidson and Co., who are prosecuting the business with great spirit and enterprise. The mills are driven by water drawn from Loch Whinnyan, which ran into the Dee; but a tunnel from the lake having been cut through a hill at an expense of L.1400, the waters of the lake were thereby conveyed in an opposite direction to Gatehouse. The number of wheels is two; the total power is equivalent to fifty-five horse-power. The number of hands employed is above 200, of whom about a half are eighteen years of age and upwards. The rate of wages averages 9s. a-week to each individual. The quantity of cotton cloth manufactured per annum is about 60,000 pieces, or, as each piece consists of 24 yards, 1,440,000 yards. We regard these statements as honourable to the Messrs Davidson and Co., particularly when we reflect on the comparative difficulties under which, from their isolated and remote situation, they labour, both as to the purchase and carriage of the raw material, and to the disposal and sale of the manufactured article. But, by dint of energy and ingenuity, they seem to be in a condition to cope in the market with competitors who enjoy facilities unknown to them.

The upper mill was destroyed by fire on the morning of the 14th October 1840. The fire originated in the scutching-room, in the lowest flat, in consequence of the fanner of one of the spreading machines giving way, which, coming against its iron encasement, struck fire and ignited the loose cotton around; and, notwithstanding every effort that could be made to arrest the progress of the flames, the whole factory, with its valuable machines, including seventy-four power-looms, was, in the short space of an hour and a-half, a heap of ruins. The damage done to the building is estimated at from L.900 to L.1000, which was only partly covered by insurance. The destruction of machinery, which was fully covered by insurance, is calculated at from L.6000 to L.7000. The mill has now been rebuilt, with various improvements. The

new machinery, with which it is now fitted, is of the most modern and improved description; and, altogether, the factory, which is again in operation, is in a more efficient state than it was before the conflagration took place.

There is a brick manufactory about a quarter of a mile to the north of Gatehouse, belonging to Mrs Hornsby. The quantity of brick made averages about 60,000 per annum. The wages paid to the men, who vary in number at different seasons of the year, are 9s. per week. There is also a brewery carried on by Mr Andrew Kirk, in which 927 bushels of barley are manufactured into ale and beer annually. The number of men employed is three. Their wages are 10s. per week. There is also an extensive nursery belonging to Mr Credie, which has existed for nearly half a century. A tannery exists in a flourishing state on the west of the Fleet; but as this is in the parish of Anwoth, it does not fall within our sphere. Green hides are manufactured in Gatehouse by Mr Samuel Blyth, to the extent of about L.400 annually.

*Navigation.*—Boat-Green, the port of Gatehouse, is on the Anwoth side of the Fleet; but as it is not 800 yards from the bridge which here unites the two parishes, and as by far the principal portion of the trade is connected with this town and parish, we have thought it proper to give here the following table, containing an abstract of the shipping, both inward and outward, at the harbour:—

Year.	Inward.			Outward.		
	No. of vessels.	Tons.	Men.	No. of vessels.	Tons.	Men.
1837,	75	2163	192	31	1186	99
1838,	83	1876	197	31	991	92
1839,	67	1594	160	28	913	79
First 6 months of 1840,	42	981	102	16	395	38

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Town.*—The only village and market-town in the parish is Gatehouse of Fleet, which contains, as previously mentioned, a population of 1377. The town of Fleet, formerly alluded to, and which is supposed to have stood on the site which Gatehouse now occupies, has long disappeared, nor do any traditions respecting it exist in the parish. The only traces of its existence consists in the eight weekly markets held in successive Fridays, beginning on the first Friday of November, annually. Symson, who wrote in the time of Charles II., and before a stone of the present town was laid, says, “At a place called Gatehouse of Fleet, there is a market for good fat kine kept on the Friday after the first

Thursday, which is after the first Monday of November, and so every Friday thereafter till Christmas." (Large Description of Galloway, p. 26.) It is well known that, at that date, not a house existed in Gatehouse except an inn; and it may, therefore, not improperly be inferred, that the privilege which the place enjoyed of holding markets had been conferred on the town of Fleet, and that it survived though the town ceased to exist. (Caledonia, iii. 329.) An inn, it is likely, always obtained at this spot, as it lay on the great line of road between Dumfries and Portpatrick. The first house in the modern village of Gatehouse, in addition to the inn, was erected in 1760, under the auspices of the late James Murray of Broughton; and, in order to insure the stability and prosperity of the town, the same gentleman held out the most liberal encouragement for the introduction of manufactures and other branches of industry. It was in this way that Messrs Birtwhistle were induced to settle in the place as manufacturers. Messrs Thomas Scott and Co. also erected two cotton mills, on the north-east extremity of the town, which did not long exist, and, unlike the establishment of Messrs Birtwhistle, have not been revived. Mr Murray established a wine company, a brewery, and a tannery, being all joint-stock concerns, of which he held a number of shares himself,\* along with many gentlemen of the county, and some from England, particularly Messrs Atkinson of Temple Sowerby, and Messrs Freeland, merchants in Liverpool. These companies were all placed under the management of persons from England; but they did not turn out lucrative speculations,—none of the partners taking an active interest in them,—and they were eventually dissolved.† Hence it was that numerous families from England were encouraged to settle in Gatehouse in connection with these various works. A branch of the Union Bank of Paisley was introduced, and for several years carried on an extensive business, but was afterwards withdrawn. About a dozen years ago, a branch of the Commercial Bank of Scotland was established at Gatehouse; and, on its discontinuance two years ago, a branch of the Western Bank of Scotland was introduced. In 1795, Mr Murray erected the town into a burgh of barony, to be governed by a provost, two bailies, and four councillors, with the privilege

\* Mr Murray, however, held no shares in either of the cotton manufactories.

† The tannery was the most successful of these speculations; Mr Davitts, the original manager, and afterwards the sole proprietor, having realized a handsome fortune by the business.

of holding a weekly market on Saturdays, and an annual fair on the first Monday of June.

Mr Murray, who thus induced many English families to take up their residence at Gatehouse, by a deed executed in 1797, and registered in Kirkcudbright in 1799, founded an Episcopal church in the vicinity of the burgh, in order that these persons might enjoy religious worship and ordinances according to the ritual of that Church to which they belonged. With this chapel he connected an academy for the education of their children; the erection of which buildings cost about L.3000. These two institutions, however, were not meant for the exclusive advantage of the English settlers, but were open to all who might choose to take advantage of them. Nor is this all. In executing an entail of his whole estate, Mr Murray bound his son, the present proprietor, and all the successors in the entail, to maintain these establishments for all time coming. He appointed the Rev. Matthew Vicers both minister of the chapel and rector of the academy, and provided that the person holding the living should be a member of the Church of England, and should act both as a clergyman and as teacher of the school connected with the chapel. He allocated twenty-five and a-half acres of land, specially mentioned in the deed of entail, to Mr Vicers and his successors, as a glebe, and fixed a permanent stipend of L. 40 yearly. The clergyman had also a spacious dwelling-house built for his use, possessing ample accommodation for boarders; and the school, which was attended by many young men from a distance, soon attained to eminence. But Mr Vicers, who is now rector of All-Hallows, in the city of Exeter, left Gatehouse twenty-four years ago; since which time the establishment has remained in abeyance, and the dwelling-house and chapel have been taken down, the latter being nominally attached to the mansion-house of Cally. No assistant has meanwhile been appointed; but upon the death of Mr Vicers, and if no successor be appointed within six months thereafter, then the Lord President of the Court of Session, the Lord Chief-Baron of Exchequer, and the Lord Justice-Clerk, for the time being, shall have power to appoint a person, duly qualified, to be joint clergyman and rector, with all the privileges and emoluments belonging to the office.

The town of Gatehouse consists mainly of three streets running nearly at right angles with the river, and parallel to each other. The bridge over the Fleet is on a line with the main or front

street. This bridge, or rather a bridge on the same site, seems to have existed at a remote period; perhaps at the time when the place was visited, in 1300, by Edward I. In 1661, Richard Murray of Broughton obtained an Act of the Scottish Parliament for "rebuilding the bridge over the Fleet at Gatehouse of Fleet, and authorizing him to levy certain tolls on all horses, cattle, and sheep passing this bridge, to reimburse him for the expense of building and upholding the same." (Act. Parl. vii. 241.) The present bridge, which consists of two ample arches, has been twice widened considerably; the last time was about twenty-five years ago. A portion (about a fifth part) of the town of Gatehouse lies on the west side of the river, in the parish of Anwoth, principally on the line of the turnpike road; but this, as it is situated in another parish, has not been taken into account in this article, and the population thereof not included in this report.

*Means of Communication.*—There is a post-office in Gatehouse. The only turnpike road in Girthon (that which connects Dumfries and Portpatrick) runs through the parish from Gatehouse to Barharrow, a distance of only two miles. In order to remove this road a little farther from the mansion-house of Cally, a line was cut, in 1820, through the Gallow-Hill, at the private expense of Mr Murray, which cost upwards of L. 3000. Two mail coaches pass through the town daily, one going to Portpatrick, the other returning from it. There are various parish roads, all of them in pretty good order; the principal of which is the road leading from Gatehouse northward to the mineral well of Lochenbreck and Laurieston, both in the parish of Balmaghie.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church was situated; from the remotest date, about two miles south of Gatehouse, till 1818, when a new and substantial church, capable of containing about 800 sitters, was built at Gatehouse, on a suitable and convenient site. The former edifice was unroofed, and now exists as a ruin. It stands in the centre of the only burial-ground in the parish. The family of Broughton bury in a vault underneath the church.

The manse was formerly situated in the immediate vicinity of the old church, but a new one was erected about fifty years ago, within less than half a-mile of Gatehouse. It has undergone various successive alterations and repairs, and is, on the whole, a comfortable building. The glebe extends to 22 acres; its annual value may be between L.25 and L.30. The stipend, which is paid from Crown teinds, was L. 66, 15s. 5d. in 1755; it is now L. 141, 13s. 2d.;



and a sum is paid by the Exchequer to bring it up to the legal minimum of L.150.

The patronage of the church and parish belonged, of old, to the Bishop of Galloway, who is supposed to have had a residence at Enrig in the parish; and some venerable trees there are still called the "Palace trees." Soon after the Reformation, namely, in 1587, the patronage was transferred to the King, but was, next year, bestowed on William Melville, commendator of Tongland, afterwards a Lord of Session, under the title of Lord Tongland, and who died in 1618.\* (*Murray's Lit. Hist. of Galloway*, 2d edit., 1832, p. 28.) On the re-establishment of Episcopacy in 1606, the patronage of Girthon was anew vested in the Bishop of Galloway, but this was not to take effect till Melville's death; and at the Revolution it was restored to the Crown, to which it has ever since belonged. (*Caledonia*, iii. 330.)

At the Reformation, the revenues of the parsonage and vicarage of Girthon were let to John Gordon of Kenmure, for L.113, 6s. 8d. Scots; but owing "to the non-payment of the pasch fines, cors present, and umest [uppermost] claithes," the lease was reduced. (*Ib.*)

There is at present a small "Free Church" congregation in Gatehouse, who assemble in the Mason Lodge, having no separate place of worship of their own. The Independents had, for thirty years, an ordained minister here; but at his death, a few years ago, no successor was appointed. Of the fate of the Episcopal chapel we have already spoken.

The following table shows the relative proportions of the different sects of Christians in the parish, previously to the late disruption.

Sects.	Families.	Individuals.
Established Church.	373	1631
Reformed Presbyterian Church,	3	6
Associate Synod,	7	34
Independents,	12	31
Episcopalians,	1	4
Roman Catholics,	23	134
Not ascertained to belong to any Christian sect,		32
Total,		1872

Public worship in the parish church is well attended. The number of communicants is upwards of 500. The Roman Ca-

\* Whether Melville had a residence at Enrig does not appear. The Logans (to whom we have already referred) were afterwards proprietors of Enrig, from whose hands it passed, by purchase, into those of the Broughton family.

tholics are visited periodically by the priest who is settled at Dalbeattie, in the parish of Urr, above twenty miles distant. The stewartry of Kirkcudbright belongs to the diocese of the Bishop, whose residence is in Edinburgh.

The following is a list of the ministers of the parish of Girthon from the Reformation to the present time, so far as their names can now be ascertained: John Bonar, 1595–1596; Alexander Frizel; John M'Lellan, 1638–1655; Simeon Knox;\* William Erskine, 1659–1662; Robert Moir, 1690–1693; William Gammell, 1693–1697; Patrick Johnston,† 1699–1736; Robert Thomson, 1737–1758; Robert Cooper, 1759–1776; John M'Naught, (deposed,) 1778–1793; William Thorburn, (translated to Troqueer,) 1792–1801; Robert Gordon, 1801–1817; Robert Jeffrey, (resigned,) 1818–1843; George Murray, 1843.

*Education.*—The means of education are ample. The parish school was improved subsequently to the retirement of Mr Armstrong, and is a large and commodious building. The schoolmaster's house, which is not worthy of the parish, is immediately attached to it, with a valuable garden immediately behind. The salary is considerably higher than the maximum, owing to the liberality of Mr Murray. There are four schools in addition to the parochial one, of which three are unendowed; the fourth is a charity school, supported by Lady Anne Murray of Broughton, and in which not only education but clothes are given gratuitously. According to an official return made to Government, (*Educ. Enquiry, Scotland, Parl. Paper, 1837, Vol. xlvii.*) the number of pupils at the parish school was 120; in the non-parochial schools, 144; total, 264, or about the seventh of the entire population,—a proportion very unusual, and highly honourable to the character of the parish. The proportions at the different seminaries have since considerably changed, and the aggregate number of scholars has rather increased than diminished. There is no need of additional schools. The inhabitants of the northern district of the parish, indeed, labour under great disadvantages as to education, owing to their distance from any school. Nor is it likely that they will ever enjoy greater facilities in this respect, owing to the extreme thinness of population. It is not an unusual thing, how-

\* Son of William Knox, minister of Cockpen, and nephew of John Knox the Reformer.

† Great-grandfather of the present Right Honourable Sir Alexander Johnston of Carnsalloch, Dumfriesshire.

ever, for children resident in that quarter to travel three or four miles to school.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid averages rather under 50; average sum allotted to each weekly, 1s. 4d. The fund from which the disbursement is made arises from church collections, which, in 1836, was L.55, 11s.; in 1837, L.55, 17s.; in 1838, L.56, 4s. 3d.; in 1839, L.53, 9s.; in 1840, L.46, 10s.; in 1841, L.46, 16s.; and from a voluntary assessment of L.168, in 1841, paid by Mr Murray of Broughton; but these assessments necessarily vary from year to year. Poor's rates, in the direct sense of the term, are unknown here.

*Savings Bank.*—There is a savings bank in the parish, under the auspices of Mr Kirkpatrick. The amount invested is about stationary at L.1200. There are various friendly societies.

*Prison.*—There has, for some years, been a lock-up-house at Gatehouse, meant to be used in cases of petty crimes or offences; but it is seldom necessary to have recourse to it.

*Fuel.*—At one time, peat was the chief fuel used; but, except in the middle and higher portions of the parish, coals, got from Whitehaven and Workington, have been all but universally preferred within the last thirty or forty years. The price of coals may be about 15s. per ton of 20 cwt.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The state of the parish has varied, and, in most instances, has been signally improved, since the former Statistical Account was written in 1792. There have been a new church and manse built,—the former at Gatehouse, the latter in the vicinity, both in the best situations, in the very centre of the great bulk of the population of the parish. The income of the minister, including stipend, manse, and glebe, was then estimated at L.120; it is now about L.200. The weekly church collections were then L.25 per annum; they are now upwards of twice that amount. There was then only one school in the parish; there are now five. The population has increased 509, or from 1363 to 1872. The only turnpike road in the parish was rude and almost impracticable, running nearly in a straight line over successive hills, some of them fully 300 feet above the level of the sea. A new turnpike road was constructed about forty years ago, which is one of the best in the kingdom, approaching nearly to a level. A similar improvement has been effected along the whole line of road from Dum-

fries to Portpatrick. The parish roads have also been greatly improved. The people are more intelligent, refined, and cleanly in their habits; their dress and food are of a higher description; and their superstitious belief and observances have been greatly weakened, if not entirely eradicated, particularly in the case of the younger portion of the population. Almost every farm-house has been rebuilt; and instead of rude hovels of one storey, the new tenements are of two stories, and distinguished as much for comfort and convenience, if not elegance, as the old ones were for meanness, and want of the most obvious accommodations. Houses of all kinds were, with few exceptions, thatched with straw; now they are almost all covered with slate. The most modern and improved systems of husbandry, both as respects rotation of crops and agricultural implements, have been introduced; and the rent of land has risen at least a third; while the farmers are of a higher grade, and far more comfortable in their circumstances. The farmer, instead of sitting in the same apartment with his servants, and eating at the same table, has now a snug parlour or dining-room appropriated to himself and family; takes his meals off a covered table; and the horn or pewter spoon has, in most cases, given way to silver. The hoddon-gray and other home-made clothes have disappeared, even in the case of servants, both male and female, and their place has been supplied by broad cloths, cotton, and silks, such as would do credit to the metropolitan county of Scotland. The only drawback to be placed in opposition to this representation is the failure and disappearance of the wine company, tannery, and brewery, forced businesses which could not succeed, and to which we have referred under a former head. The June annual fair, and the various markets at Gatehouse, have also greatly fallen off. The Irish horses and cattle, which formed the staple articles at these marts, instead of being sent through Galloway, are almost all transported direct in steam-boats from Belfast and the other Irish towns to the leading markets in England. In 1812, for example, 20,000 horses and black-cattle were imported at Portpatrick from Ireland. The number in 1837 was only 1080. It is owing to this cause alone that the markets of Gatehouse, as also those of other towns in Galloway, have declined.

*April 1844.*

# PARISH OF KIRKMABRECK.

PRESBYTERY OF WIGTON,\* SYNOD OF GALLOWAY.

THE REV. JOHN MUIR, MINISTER.

---

## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THE parish of Kirkmabreck is formed of the old parish of this name, and the largest portion of the old parish of Kirkdale. The name of Kirkmabreck was composed, says Chalmers, in his *Caledonia*, by prefixing the Saxon *Cyrc* to *Mabreck*, the previous name of the place where the kirk was built. *Mabreck*, or *Magh-breck*, is a local name, and signifies, in the Irish speech, *the variegated plain*. In fact, the plain whereon the church stood, abounds with many rocks and stones of granite, which give it a speckled appearance. For the same reason, a large plain in the vicinity of *Tarah*, in Ireland, is supposed to take the name of *Maghbreck*.†

*Symson*, however, assures us that Kirkmabreck was so called from some saint whose name was *Macbreck*, a part of whose statue in wood was, about thirty years before the time he wrote his *History of Galloway*, in an old chapel at the *Ferrytown*. Of this statue, however, there is now no trace, and no tradition; and we search the *Martyrologies* in vain for such a saint as *Macbreck* or *Mabreck*.‡

The late Mr *M'Lean* of *Mark*, in the old *Statistical Account* of this parish, gives a different etymology from either of the preceding. *Kirkmabreck*, says he, or more properly the church in the brake, is exceedingly descriptive of the place in which the church formerly stood. For, as brake signifies furze, brambles, thorns, heath, ferns, &c., so not only the particular place in which the church stood, but also many other places in the parish, are encumbered with those substances.

\* Kirkmabreck was at one time in Kirkcudbright Presbytery, but was transferred to Wigton in the year 1699.

† Vid. Chal. Cal.

‡ Sym. Hist. Gal.

The name of Kirkdale parish is derived from the Anglo-Saxon *Cyrc-dale*—signifying *the church in the vale*.

The names, therefore, of Kirkmabreck and Kirkdale have evidently a reference to the situation or dedication of their respective churches, an account of which may not here be out of place.

The church of Kirkmabreck belonged to the monks of Dundrainan previous to the Reformation, and it was afterwards vested in the King, by an Act of General Annexation, in 1587. This church, with the other property of the monastery of Dundrainan, were granted by the King, in 1606, to John Murray, and the grant was ratified in Parliament in 1609 and 1612.\* In 1621, this church, with all its tithes and revenues, were, by Act of Parliament, disjoined from the Abbey of Dundrainan, and granted to Sir Robert Gordon of Lochinvar, and his heirs.† The parish of Kirkmabreck, and the adjacent parish of Kirkdale, were afterwards annexed to the parish of Anwoth; but this union was dissolved in 1636, when a new and more convenient arrangement was made, whereby a small part of Kirkdale was annexed to Anwoth, and the greater part was united to Kirkmabreck. These changes were finally ratified by Parliament in 1641, and the boundaries of the parish have continued the same ever since,—though Symson says Skairbourn was the march with Anwoth in 1684. In 1645, however, an Act of Parliament was passed for transplanting the church of Kirkmabreck, and a new church was built for the united parish of Kirkmabreck and Kirkdale, in a more accessible and convenient situation, at what was then called the Ferry Town of Cree, where there had been of old a chapel, and where there is now a prosperous village, called Creetown. The ruins of the old church of Kirkmabreck may still be seen standing in the old churchyard, in a very lonely and sequestered spot, near a farm-house of the same name. The old churchyard is still used, and contains many old and curious grave-stones, some of which are the workmanship of “Old Mortality.”

The patronage of the old parish of Kirkmabreck belonged, in 1684, to the Laird of Rusco. The patronage of the united parish of Kirkmabreck and Kirkdale now belongs to John M'Culloch, Esq. of Barholm, and the Crown.‡

\* Act. Par. IV. 326, 444, 495.

† This grant stipulated, that the grantee and his heirs should pay the minister serving the cure the same yearly stipend which Murray was obliged to pay by the previous grant, and that they should furnish the communion elements, and repair the church.

‡ Symson's Account of Galloway.

*Kirkdale.*—The old church of this parish, which was dedicated to St Michael the Archangel, stood in the valley of a small stream which falls into Wigton Bay. Chalmers in his *Caledonia* says, that even the ruins of the ancient *Cyrc* have disappeared. This, however, is a mistake; the time-worn and ivy-clad ruins of this ancient place of worship still stand in the midst of the old cemetery of Kirkdale; and what was once a sanctuary for the living, has now become the sepulchre of the dead. Indeed it has long been the burying-place of the ancient family of the M'Cullochs of Barholm, and, so late as the year 1836, the remains of the most estimable and deeply-lamented lady of the present Mr M'Culloch of Barholm were buried there. The Kirkdale churchyard is also still preserved as the burying-place of some of the oldest families in the parish. The Hannays of Kirkdale and Mochrum have here their family vault, which is handsomely and substantially built of granite. The churchyard itself is of small dimensions, and has been originally surrounded, but is now completely overshadowed with trees. It is impossible to conceive a more lonely spot. The situation is solitude itself,—remote—romantic—placed in a dreary vale, in the bosom of a wood surrounded by hills—within sight of the troubled ocean, and within hearing of the ceaseless wailings of the stream. Nothing can surpass the solemnity of the scene. In entering the churchyard, the living feel as already in communion with the dead, and behold, in the most striking manner, “How still and peaceful is the grave.”

The church of Kirkdale belonged to the King in the reign of James IV., who transferred it to the priory of Whithorn. It appears that, in July 1505, the King presented Mr Richard Aikenhead to the rectory of Kirkdale, vacant by the decease of Sir Robert Fard.\* In November 1508, Henry, the prior of *Candida Casa*, obtained a charter from James IV. of the church of Kirkdale. This charter was granted at the priory, while the King was on a pilgrimage to the ancient seat of St Ninians.† With this priory this church remained till the Reformation, when it was vested in the King by the General Act of Annexation in 1587. At the Reformation, the tithes of Kirkdale were let by the prior and canons for L.24 Scots yearly.‡ When James VI. re-established Episcopacy, he granted, in 1606, to the Bishop of

\* Priv. Seal Reg. iii. 10.

† Reg. Maj. Sig. C. xv. 78.

‡ MS. Rental Book, fo. 75.

Galloway, the priory of Whithorn with its pertinents, of which this church was one.\* But when Episcopacy was finally abolished in 1689, the patronage of Kirkdale reverted to the Crown, —and the Sovereign, as patron of this church, enjoys a moiety of the patronage of the united parish with M'Culloch of Barholm.†

*Extent and Boundaries.*—The united parish of Kirkmabreck and Kirkdale is of an irregular shape, and is about 9 miles long, and 5½ miles broad. It is bounded on the north by Minnigaff; on the east, by Girthon; on the south, by Anwoth; and on the west, by the Cree and Wigton Bay.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The general aspect of the parish is mountainous, and may be said to be formed of a succession of hills and valleys; and the ridges of mountains, which rise rapidly from the shore and intersect the parish, have a very picturesque effect, particularly from Wigtonshire. The hills are in general covered with heath, and present a variegated appearance; and the sloping banks of Kirkdale and Cassencarrie are covered for miles with beautiful copsewood, which at all times, but especially in autumn, gives a singular richness to the whole landscape.

*Mountains.*—The principal mountains in this parish are the Clints of Drumore, Craig, Pebble, Cairnharrow, Larg. These are all from 800 to 1000 feet above the level of the sea, and are principally composed of granite, greywacke, and clay-slate, and are partially covered with heath. A part of Cairnsmore is also in this parish. It is the largest as well as the highest of all the mountains in this neighbourhood, and was found by the civil-engineers employed by Government many years ago, to be 2222 feet above the level of the sea. It is wholly of granite, and partially covered with heath, and, at a little distance, it has a singularly gray and sparkling appearance. There is a plain of considerable extent upon its summit, with less heath and more soil and herbage than upon its sides. The top of Cairnsmore commands a most extensive view of many of the counties of Scotland, and of the Isle of Man, Ailsa Craig, and a part of England and Ireland.

*Surface and Soil.*—The surface upon the hills is thin and much broken by projecting rocks. The valleys, again, are green, with a better soil, and have been considerably improved by shelling, and now yield good crops of grain and pasture. The land upon

\* Act. Par. v. 72.

† Chalm. Cal. Vol. iii. 333.



the Cree, and along the shore the whole length of the parish, is in general very good. Some table-land very superior. The soil is in some places alluvial, but is in general light; and there are several fields along the shore covered entirely with shells to a considerable depth. The shells, however, are in such a state of decomposition, that the fields have been long under tillage; and in the north end of the parish, there is a considerable field of moss at Carsewalloch and Muirfad.

*Caves, Caverns, and Fissures.*—There are several of these along this coast. Some of them are very curious, especially opposite Ravens Hall. They are frequently visited by strangers, and are well worthy of inspection. They seem to have been formed by the ebbing and flowing of the tide, and are of very considerable extent. In some places the sea has forced a passage through the rocks, and at other places it has cloven them like the granitic rocks of Hillswick Ness. There is one very remarkable cave, but being of difficult access, it is seldom visited. Its mouth is like a pit of two fathoms deep, at the bottom of which the cave diverges almost at right angles, and penetrates the rocks towards the north to a considerable distance. It is said that no person has yet explored it to the end. Tradition has claimed this as the cave of Dirk Hatterick; and the supposition is strengthened by the legends of the parish, and the striking likeness of our coast scenery to the graphic delineations of Guy Mannering. An old tower, not far from this cave, is pointed out as “Ellangowan Castle,”—a curious ravine, as “Meg Merrilees’ Path,”—and a mansion on the Cree, as “Woodburn House.”\*

There is a remarkable fissure in the Knock Down of Carsluth. The hill appears to have been split by violence at some remote period. The opposite sides of the ravine are very like, and appear to fit into each other with remarkable precision.

*Coast.*—The coast is about six miles in extent, and is in general flat, sandy, and shelly. The Kirkdale shore is rocky, bold, high, and precipitous.

*Meteorology.*—Amongst the various prognostics of the weather spoken of in this parish, may be mentioned the peculiar and distant noise of the rising tide, and the flocking of sea-fowl to the

\* The author is aware that this honour has been claimed for other parts of Galloway, but, it is presumed, with less appearance of probability, especially as the Bay of Wigton is referred to in Guy Mannering itself.

shore,—the signs which Virgil so well describes.\* These are regarded by many as indications of a change of weather; and when the foam is floating plentifully upon the rising tide, or when the shadows of the trees and houses on the opposite side of the bay are reflected in the sands, these are regarded by some as never-failing signs of approaching rain; and if, at the same time, the smoke of Wigton is hanging over this town or descending towards the bay, it is affirmed that rain is at hand.

The barometer generally ranges between  $28\frac{1}{2}$  and  $30\frac{1}{2}$  inches. By the thermometer, the mean temperature for the year may be about  $47\frac{1}{2}$ .

The prevailing winds are from the south and south-west, and our severest storms of rain and snow are from the south or south-east.

*Climate.*—The climate may be considered healthy from the number of old people generally to be found in the parish. The air upon the whole is pure and dry, although for a few years the seasons have been cold and wet. The rain, even when it falls in considerable quantities, is carried off rapidly, and the lands and roads are soon left dry. The diseases most prevalent are catarrh, pleuritis, and rheumatism. From the old Statistical Account, it appears that small-pox had prevailed very much at one time in this parish, which was attributed to the prejudice of parents against vaccination. This prejudice has disappeared, although some parents still neglect to get their children vaccinated, which is a most hazardous and culpable omission. In the spring of 1836, small-pox prevailed in Creetown to a considerable extent. Six adults died who had never been vaccinated; but those who had, either escaped the disease altogether, or soon recovered from it.

*Hydrography.*—The Bay of Wigton, which forms the western boundary of the parish, may be, in some places, about six miles wide, and nine miles long. By the ebbing of the tide, it is left nearly dry, and presents a large and smooth surface of sand, intersected by the Cree and Bladenoch. By the flowing of the tide, which occasionally rises 22 feet above the level of the river, the whole bay is one beautiful and unbroken sheet of water; and in calm weather, the hills around, and the Heavens above, and the vessels upon its surface, are reflected as in a mirror.

\* “Cum medio celeres revolant ex æquore mergi,  
Clamoremque ferunt ad littora; cumque marinæ  
In sicco ludunt fulicæ, notasque paludes  
Deserit, atque altam supra volat ardea nubem.”

“e pastu decedens,” &c.

“Certatim largos humeris,” &c.

The current is considerable, both in the ebbing and flowing of the tide.

*Rivers.*—The Cree is the only river connected with this parish. It is said to rise out of Loch-moan, where the three counties\* meet, and for miles it forms not only the boundaries of Penninghame and Minnigaff, but also of the two counties, Wigton and Kirkcudbright, and finally falls into the Solway, after a course of about twenty-eight miles. From Newton-Stewart to Creetown, its course is singularly eccentric and serpentine,—and, as seen from Larg hill, it gives a charm to the whole landscape. It is navigable for small vessels to Carty. A poem, lately published, under the title of “The Rivers of Galloway,” has made honourable mention of the Cree.

*Springs.*—Chalybeate springs are found in many parts of the parish, especially at Muirfad, Cuil, Falbae, Pibble, Ferryburn, Blackmire, † &c. The one at Pibble is particularly powerful, and is occasionally frequented by invalids with much advantage. These waters have, perhaps, never been carefully analyzed, although the presence of iron, magnesia, and sulphur, may be easily detected.

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—The lower district of the parish is clay-slate or schist of a recent formation. All the different formations of clay-slate are to be found in the parish. On some of the hills the floets trap and greywacke supersede the clay-slate, and on others the gneiss formation, particularly on the south end of Cairnsmore. Traces of the whin dike are also found in different places; and the strata that form the basis of all our mountains or hills is granite or syenite. Geologists contend that granite is never stratified. Galloway granite, however, is frequently found stratified; and in this parish the stratification is most distinct. When the granite is found in beds, it is perpendicular. In a troubled state, it has considerable dip, and scarcely any appearance of stratification. In the quarry, the strata vary in thickness from six inches to five feet; ‡ and as they appear on the surface, they generally retain the same thickness below. This fact may be of great use in searching for granite of any particular dimensions; because, if the tops are bad, as the quarry-men say, it is of no use to seek for good stuff below. §

\* Ayr, Wigton, and Kirkcudbright.

† Symson says, “Near the old kirk of Kirkmabreck there is a well which, as I am informed, proceeds from vitriol.”

‡ Some strata have lately been found in the quarry much thicker.

§ Rhind says, in his Catechism of the Natural History of the Earth, that granite

The alluvial deposits covering the solid rocks of granite are principally gravel and boulders, which are dispersed over the parish in great numbers.

This quarry is worthy of the inspection of geologists.

Lead has been discovered in different parts of the parish, particularly at Blair-wood, Drumore, Glen, and Mark; and fine specimens of pure galena have been found in Monnipool. A copper mine was opened lately at Craigneuk, but did not succeed. Appearances of copper are also occasionally to be found in the quarry.

*Zoology.*—There are no rare species of animals to be found at present in the parish; but, from organic remains, of a peculiar formation and great size, occasionally found in the Cree, as well as from antlers of very large dimensions, there can be no doubt that animals of different kinds formerly existed in this district, which have long ago disappeared.

In 1684, Symson says, that the farmers of Galloway did not kill any of their calves; and veal was only seen at the tables of a few gentlemen. And as their wealth consisted chiefly in cattle, they thought it very ill husbandry to sell for *a shilling* what in three years would bring them *twenty shillings*. The price of Galloway cattle has risen very much since Symson's time. In 1794, the three-year-olds sold at L.7; and, in 1807, at L.10. In 1814, two-year-olds were as high as L.10, and three-year-olds, L.14. And in 1839, prices were, in some cases, even higher. Of course, in the interval of these dates, many changes have taken place, and prices have been occasionally very low.

This parish cannot, perhaps, claim any pre-eminence in the breeding of cattle, although some of the farmers have excellent stocks of pure "Galloways." There are also some good Ayrshire cows, which have of late been increasing. At Cassencarrie, Muirfad, and Glen, there are now pretty extensive dairies, conducted upon the Ayrshire plan.

There are a few cattle in the parish of a mixed breed, consisting of crosses between the Ayrshire, Galloway, and Irish.

Mr M'Lean estimated that there would be 1600 black cattle in the parish in 1794. This number could not even now be well wintered, but many more might be grazed in summer.

The native sheep of Galloway was a small handsome white-faced "is liable to be acted upon by the atmosphere, and does not withstand the elements so well as the softer and more manageable sandstone." It is the very reverse with Galloway granite.

breed with very fine wool. It was compared by Lithgow the traveller, who walked over this country in 1628, to that of Spain. This breed has long ago disappeared. The hills are now stocked with small black-faced sheep; and Chalmers, in his *Caledonia*,\* states that it has not been ascertained whence this hardy breed came. It is the practice here to keep what is called a running stock, which is sold in regular rotation. Perhaps a well-selected ewe stock would be an improvement, with a little more attention to horns and wool. It was estimated that, in 1794, there were 7500 black-faced and 300 white-faced sheep in the parish. There are now fewer black-faced and more white-faced; of the former there may be about 7000, and of the latter 800.

The horses of Galloway are as celebrated as its sheep. They are undoubtedly the descendants of the native breed, whatever may be said of the Spanish Armada having left upon the Galloway shore some sheep and horses when the Spanish ships were wrecked. Camden, who published his *Britannia* in 1586, describes the Galloway horses by their good qualities, before the Armada was heard of. And Galloway horses were well known in Shakspeare's days, who makes Pistol exclaim when insulted by Doll, "Know we not Galloway naggs." Lithgow, who had visited many countries, says, in 1628, that Galloway abounds with little horses, which for mettle and riding may rather be termed bastard barbs. These useful horses continued to be exported from Galloway in great numbers in 1684. This admirable breed has by neglect been allowed to degenerate, and it is difficult now to find a genuine Galloway pony. It would scarcely be safe to state, that there is one of the pure breed in this parish. There are, however, some excellent draught horses, particularly at Spittal, Cuil, the Quarry, &c.; and Mr M'Culloch of Barholm has long been in the habit of breeding ponies of a small size and very handsome, which, for mettle, may be as good as those of which Lithgow wrote. The young horses bred in the parish are generally bought up by the dealers for the Glasgow market; and the demand for horses of a large size has induced the farmers to pay more attention to bulk than beauty. This is much to be regretted, because the pasture in general is not fit to rear horses of a large size; and besides, a horse of fifteen hands, of good proportions, is much more useful for all the purposes of husbandry in this part of the country. In 1794 it was estimated there were

\* Chalm, Cal. Vol. iii. 289.

200 horses in the parish. There may now be 300, all ages included.

Swine undoubtedly once ran wild in the woodlands of Galloway, and many were reared in this district during the middle ages. Of this there are many intimations in the charters of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. Swine were even paid as *can* to the King from Galloway.\* This practice has of course been long ago abolished, but Galloway still maintains its reputation for breeding swine. In this parish there are a great many reared for the Newton-Stewart, Castle-Douglas, and Dumfries markets. Some of the old residenters still retain the wild breed, but in general those of a larger size are reared. Those from twelve to eighteen stone are found to take the market best, and will bring at present 5s. per stone of 14 pounds.

In the old Statistical Account it is estimated that there were, in 1794, 500 goats in the parish. There is now not half that number, although there are still a few upon Drumore, Larg, &c.; and in Creetown a few families keep them for the sake of their milk, which is both wholesome and nutritious.

*Ichthyology.*—The prejudices of the Celtic people did not allow them to apply to the waters for their subsistence from fishery, and neither in Ireland nor in Galloway have the inhabitants ever profited as much as they might have done, from the fish which abound upon their shores and in their rivers. Yet Camden speaks at the beginning of the seventeenth century, as if the Galloway men practised the art of catching fish in the sea, as well as in the lakes and rivulets, and he specifies the incredible number of eels which they took in their creels.† Yet, says Chalmers, no professed fishers have ever settled along the shores of the Solway. The fishing of the Stewartry in the sea has been carried on hitherto in a desultory manner. There is now a considerable change for the better in this respect. Deep sea fishing is practised upon our shores, and it is hoped that the success which has attended the experiments which have been recently made at Kirkdale, &c. will stimulate both proprietors and tacksmen to still greater exertion to procure for the use of man a much larger share of the treasures of the deep.

There is a great variety of fish in the Bay of Wigton and in the Cree. The following is a list of those known to and found by the fishermen, viz. salmon, sea trout, herling, cod, herring, spur-

\* Chalmers's Caledonia.

† Brit. Ed. 1607, page 692.

lings, soles, flounders, (plaice and dab,) gray and red gurnard, turbot, mackerel, sturgeon, chad, blockan brain, John Dorey, skate, conger, sea devil, jackalator or ink fish, lamprey eel, silver or horn eel, whiting, mullet, porpoises, hen or lump fish, shrimps, lobsters, crabs, oysters, mussels, cockles, periwinkles, sprats, limpets. There was even a young whale killed opposite Sutor Croft with an axe, about thirty years ago.

The fresh water fish are trout, par, and eel. Some of the fish mentioned in this list are scarce in the bay; fortunately, however, those most useful are in greatest abundance; such as salmon, sea trout, spurling, flounders, &c. These abound in the bay and in the Cree, and are caught in great quantities in their proper seasons; and a great proportion of the salmon and spurling are sent to Carlisle, Liverpool, and Manchester. The spurling is so highly prized in Liverpool and Manchester that the fishermen now receive 1s. per pound for all they can send, instead of 4d., the price formerly obtained in this district. This must now be a considerable source of gain to the fishermen, as spurlings can be obtained almost at any season of the year, although they are in general most abundant in March. The salmon fishing season opens here on the 1st January and closes on the 25th September.

*Conchology.*—There is a great abundance, and a considerable variety of shells upon the coast. Upon the beach from Creetown to Carsluth, there is an immense number of univalves and bivalves. From Carsluth to Ravenshall there is found among the rugged rocks another description of shells, principally of the class univalves, but of different orders and families. What is perhaps of greater practical importance to notice under this head, is the vast quantities of shells that have been found upon the shore and neighbouring fields. The holms of Cassencarrie, the low lands of the glebe, and Kirkbride and Kirkdale, were at one time covered with shells from four to ten feet deep; and as these must have been thrown out and left by the tide, it is evident that the tide must at one time have risen at least fifteen feet higher upon this coast than it has done for many years.

The old Statistical Account takes particular notice of these shell banks for agricultural purposes, in the following terms: The principal manure used for improving land is sea-shells, of which there is an almost inexhaustible quantity, not only within the high water mark on this side of Wigton Bay, but also in the dry land, several hundred yards from the shore, particularly in the holms of

Cassencarrie, where they are in beds from four to ten feet of the finest shells imaginable, without almost any mixture of sand. These shells are generally sold by the agents of Mr M'Kenzie at 5d. per ton, 25 tons of which are sufficient for an acre of land, and prove a cheap and excellent manure to this part of the country, and are considered much preferable to either lime or marl. But the advantages of this valuable treasure of shells is not confined to this part of the country alone, but extends round fifty or sixty miles of a coast as far as the Mull of Galloway, where they are sold as high as 3s. 6d. per ton. Many thousand tons of these shells are carried off annually by a number of vessels from twenty to sixty tons burthen, which are constantly employed, when the weather will permit, in carrying them all round the coast, and sometimes even to the Isle of Man. These shells have been used with great advantage for the improvement of barren heathy land, in so much that many hundreds of acres in this parish originally not worth more than 2s. per acre, have been made worth from 10s. to 15s. per acre.

These shell-banks, deemed at one time inexhaustible, have been greatly reduced. There is still a considerable quantity remaining, which might be profitably employed in reclaiming the waste land of the parish. The farmers do not seem to appreciate this treasure sufficiently, as shells are now but seldom used as a manure.

*Botany.*—In this parish, there is much to interest the botanist. Plants, indigenous to some of the highest mountains in Scotland, to some of the richest glens, and also to the sea coast, are to be found in considerable abundance. The maritime plants are principally found on the south coast, and are such as the following:—*Scilla verna* (two or three var.), *Aster Tripolium*, *Senecio saracenicus*, *Inula erithmoides*, *Iris Pseud-Acorus*, *Botrychium Lunaria* (very rare).

Those found in sheltered glens or well-cultivated districts are, *Eupatorium cannabinum*, *Galanthus nivalis* (in greatest abundance), *Ornithogalum luteum*, *Convallaria majalis*, *C. multiflora*.

There is a high and steep bank, stretching from the village of Creetown, a considerable way beyond the manse, literally studded with plants of this description. In the month of April, this bank is covered with one dense sheet of white, consisting of *Anemone nemorosa* and *Oxalis Acetosella*, which give way to all the beautiful varieties of *Hyacinthus non-scriptus*. At the bottom of this bank, there is a very considerable number of the family Orchidæ,



such as *Orchis maculata*, *O. latifolia*, *Gymnadenia conopsea*, *Habenaria bifolia*, *H. viridis*.

The alpine plants, which are by far the most numerous, embrace several species of the genera *Sedum* and *Saxifraga*, particularly *Saxifraga oppositifolia*; all the native heaths—*Calluna vulgaris*, *Erica Tetralix*, *E. ciliaris*, as well as *Vaccinium Oxy-coccus*.

There is a very great variety of the class Cryptogamia, mosses, lichens, and particularly ferns, growing in richest luxuriance on the mountainous districts of this parish, and some even of the rarer kinds. Behind the manse there are beautiful specimens of *Polypodium vulgare*, *P. Phegopteris*, *Scolopendrium vulgare*. And on the old church, and wall round the old church, there are, *Asplenium Ruta-muraria*, *A. Adiantum-nigrum*.

*Forests or Plantations.*—There are considerable forests of natural wood in this parish, especially upon the banks of Kirkdale and Cassencarrie. These forests extend for several miles, and are principally composed of oak and ash, and are cut down at the end of every twenty-five or thirty years. At Cassencarrie there is a row of fine old sycamores; and, at the south end of the house, there is a cedar of Lebanon of a large size. There are a few fine old oak trees at Kirkbride; but these, although of a large size, are small when compared with some that have been found in the Cree. Mr M'Culloch of Barholm raised one from the bed of the river, a few years ago, which measured about 5 feet in diameter, and about 50 feet in length, and which he sold to Mr Younghusband of Whitehaven, for ship-building, at L.25. It is supposed that there are some even larger than this in the river; but, from the difficulty of raising them, they have hitherto been left undisturbed. At what period these immense trees had grown, or when they were swept into the river, cannot now be known. It must have been, however, at some very remote period. And it is difficult to account for their size, seeing there is now nothing approaching their dimensions growing in the neighbourhood.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Land-owners.*—There are twelve heritors or proprietors of land in the parish. The principal are, Miss Hannay of Mochrum and Kirkdale; John M'Culloch, Esq. of Barholm; Sir John W. P. Muir M'Kenzie, Bart. of Delvine; Colonel M'Dowal of Logan; David Anderson, Esq. of St Germans; Thomas Hughan, Esq. of Airds; Henry M'Culloch, Esq. of Glenquicken,

&c.; Sir David Maxwell, Bart. of Cardoness; James M. M'Culloch, Esq. of Ardwell.

*Valuation.*—The ancient valuation of the parish, as it stands in the cess-books of the county, is L.8199, 10s. 8d. Scots. Present valuation of the parish, L.3212, 10s. Sterling.

The following list shows the valuation of each property, and the names of the respective proprietors:—

Property.	Valuation.	Proprietors.
Kirkdale, - - - - -	L.937 10 0	Miss Hannay.
Barholm, - - - - -	547 1 1	John M'Culloch, Esq.
Cassencarrie, - - - - -	411 18 7	Sir J. W. P. M. M'Kenzie, Bart.
Glenquicken, - - - - -	320 0 0	Henry M'Culloch, Esq.
Glens and Mark, - - - - -	270 0 0	D. Anderson, Esq. St Germaine.
Carsewalloch, Blairs, and Muirfad,	230 0 0	Colonel M'Dowal of Logan.
Falbae, Kilchronchie, and Kirkbride,	203 12 2	Thomas Hughan, Esq. of Airds.
Pibble and Craigneuk,* - - - - -	100 0 0	Trustees of Mark.
Drumote and Little Cullendoch,	82 0 0	Sir David Maxwell, Bart.
Cairnholy, - - - - -	75 0 0	Ja. M'Culloch, Esq. of Ardwell.
Holm Park, - - - - -	20 8 2	Miss Kinnon.
Garrochar, - - - - -	15 0 0	Mrs Major Campbell.

L.3212 10 0

*Stipend payable by the Heritors of Kirkmabreck.*—1. Barholm pays in money, L.3, 11s. 10½d. yearly; in meal, 25 bolls, 2 stones, and 4⅞ lbs.; in barley, 18 quarters, 3 bushels.

2. Cassencarrie pays in money, L.1, 9s. 11½d. yearly; in meal, 21 bolls, 2 stones, 5⅞ lbs.; in barley, 15 quarters, 3 bushels, 2 pecks, 1 gallon, 3¾ quarts.

3. Glens, in meal, 13 bolls, 2 stones, 12⅞ lbs.; in barley, 9 quarters, 5 bushels, 1 peck, 1 gallon, ¾ quart. Mark pays in money, 16s. 8d.

4. Kirkbride pays in money, L.23, 2s. 11d. yearly. Falbae and Kilchronie, in meal, 9 bolls, 5⅞ lbs.; in barley, 6 quarters, 4 bushels, 2 pecks, 1 gallon, ¼ quart.

5. Pibble pays in money, L.2, 10s. yearly. Craigneuk, in meal, 1 boll, 7 stones, 10⅞ lbs.; in barley, 1 quarter, 2 bushels, 1 peck, 3¼ quarts.

6. Carsewalloch, Blairs, and Muirfad pay in money, L.1, 9s. 4½d. yearly; in meal, 8 bolls, 3⅞ lbs.; in barley, 5 quarters, 6 bushels, 2 pecks, 1 gallon, 3¼ quarts.

7. Kirkdale pays in money, L.26, 1s. 7½d. yearly; in meal, 1 boll, 8 stones; in barley, 1 quarter, 2 bushels, 6 pecks, 1 gallon, 3¼ quarts.

8. Holm Park pays in meal, 2 bolls, 8 stones, 6⅞ lbs.; in barley, 2 quarters, 2 pecks, 2 quarts.

\* Craigneuk has lately been sold, consequently there will now be 13 heritors.

9. Glenquicken pays in money, L.24, 13s. yearly.
10. Garrochar pays in money, L.14 yearly.
11. Ardwell pays in money, L.2, 4s. 5½d. yearly.
12. Drumore, &c. pays in money, L.4, 7s. 7½d. yearly.

In 1794, the real rental of the parish was estimated at L.2750 Sterling. The present rental may be estimated at about L.5450.

*Parochial Registers.*—There are three volumes of parish registers. The first volume embraces the time that elapsed between 1703 and 1792. From 1703 to 1739, they have been kept with great regularity; from 1740 to 1756, no entry whatever; 1756 to 1792, kept imperfectly. Some of the intermediate years have no entry, others only one; but towards the middle, and onwards to about the end of the above period, they were kept with great regularity. These records are almost solely confined to sessional matters, consisting of dry but succinct details, with little that is interesting to relieve the outline. The following, however, may be cited as a fine instance of the attachment which existed to our national church at the time the circumstance alluded to took place, and which, as the spirit that prompted the gift is now unfortunately somewhat antiquated, we present in its antiquated dress.

“ Kirk-session of Kirkmabreck, holden within the church yrof upon the 29th of July 1707, be the minister and eldership then present. The whilk day, William Muir in Peble, hath delivered to Mr Samuel Brown, minister and eldership forsd under-sub., ane silver cup with this inscriptione yron, (Gifted to the parish of Kilmabreck, by William Muir in Peble, and Janet M<sup>c</sup>Bryd, his spous, 1707.) And yt for the use of sd church during Presbetry, as now by law established, and no longer. And the said William Muir heirby appointing the sd Mr Samuell, gif, in his time or any other, his successors in the sd church, being Presbyterians, with consent of the eldership that may happen to be for the tyme, that in case of any revolutione and alteratione of the present church government, (which God forbid,) to secure the sd cup, and preserve the same till the government return Presbiterian again. And this the sd William Muir desires to be recorded in the session books of the said church, ad futuram rei memoriam; and yt the forsd gift may not be made use of or disposed upon oyrways then is above appointed and designed by the gifters. Whilke gift the minister and elders have accepted in the terms gifted, and grants the desire of the gifter. And in testimony of the hail premises, the said William Muir, minister and elders, have all subscribed thir presents.”

The second volume of the parish register commenced with May 1823, and is carried on with great regularity till May 1834,—though in one instance it is rather mutilated.

The third volume begins June 1834, and is carried on to the present date with great regularity.

*Eminent Characters.*—The history of this parish is rendered more interesting by being connected with the names of a few eminent men, both in ancient and modern times. Gilbert Brown, the last abbot of Sweathart, was descended of the ancient family of Carsluth, in this parish, now extinct.\* He had a seat in that Parliament by which the Confession of Faith was passed.† The celebrity of Gilbert Brown originated in the controversy between him and the famous John Welsh of Ayr, on the subject of Popery. A communication from Welsh, to a person of the Catholic religion, the object of which was to undermine the principles of that faith, having fallen into the hands of Brown, he immediately composed what he regarded as a refutation of it, addressed to Welsh. Welsh was not tardy in making a reply, which, while it is extremely satisfactory and conclusive, forms one of the most learned and elaborate works written in that age. Nor was Brown without his share of talent; and his erudite treatise, (if a few pages can deserve that name,) is as superior to the works of any of his Catholic brethren of that period, as it is inferior in every useful quality to the elaborate production of Welsh. Welsh wished for a verbal and public disputation on the points at issue, but this Brown, for his own good name, had the caution and prudence to decline.

Brown, a rigid and inflexible Catholic, was, says Dr M'Crie, “a busy trafficker for Rome and Spain, and a chief instrument of keeping the south of Scotland under ignorance and superstition.”‡ Accordingly the Commissioners of the Assembly, in a list of grievances, which, in 1596, they submitted to the King, stated among other things, “that Jesuits and excommunicated Papists were entertained within the country.” Gilbert Brown of New Abbey was specially mentioned, and recommended to be apprehended, and brought before his Majesty for his errors. This recommendation, however, was not attended with immediate success; but, nine years afterwards, he was apprehended by Lord Cranstoun,

\* This ancient family became extinct about 100 years ago. Over the armorial bearings above the door of Carsluth, 1364 appears, probably to mark the antiquity of the family,—and under them 1581 stands, probably to mark the age of the building.

† Keith's Cal. 260.

‡ M'Crie's Life of Melville.

captain of the guard appointed for the Borders,—though not without some difficulty, as the people attempted to rescue him out of his hands.\* He was first confined in Blackness, and thence, in a few days, conveyed to the castle of Edinburgh. More kindness was shown by the King to him than to his amiable and ingenious opponent; for after having been liberally entertained, while in confinement, at the public expense, he was permitted to leave the kingdom; all the apparatus and insignia of Popery belonging to him having been carefully restored before his departure. He died in France in 1612.†

This parish also contained, in the days of persecution, some who were counted worthy and were found willing to suffer for Christ's sake. Of these, the names of Major M'Culloch of Barholm, and the Rev. Patrick Peacock of Kirkmabreck, ought to be held in grateful remembrance. Major M'Culloch, who had been fined L.800 by Middleton's Parliament in 1662, for his non-conformity, suffered martyrdom at Edinburgh on the 7th of December 1666, for being present at the battle of Pentland, where he was taken prisoner; and the Privy Council ordained his head and right hand to be cut off; the former to be stuck up on the market-cross of Kirkcudbright,—the latter, on that of Ayr or Lanark, because it was there the Covenant was renewed with uplifted hands. Major M'Culloch suffered much before the insurrection. Soldiers were quartered on him thirty days at a time, which he had not only to keep, but to pay; and, after his execution, his son was seized and imprisoned for a whole year. The Barholm estate was forfeited, and continued under forfeiture till the Revolution. In the same year, (1666,) "some few families" in Kirkmabreck were fined in the aggregate sum of L.563, 6s. Scots. Mr. Peacock, minister of the parish, was ejected, along with nearly a third of the Presbyterian ministers, from his living, in 1662. He was afterwards ordered to be confined within the parish of Ochiltree in Ayrshire. He subsequently took refuge in the north of Ireland, but returned to Kirkmabreck at the Revolution in 1689, and continued minister of the parish till his death in 1691.‡

The famous Samuel Rutherford officiated frequently in this parish during his incumbency at Anwoth. He was settled in Anwoth in 1627. Till this date, Anwoth, Kirkdale, and Kirkmabreck had been as one parish. Indeed, if the authorities I have

\* Calderwood's Hist. App. 320-496.

† Dr Murray's Literary History of Galloway, 30.

‡ Wedrow, i. 327, ii. 10, 39, 48.

consulted, and which I have already quoted, be correct, this union was not dissolved till 1636, and not ratified by Parliament till 1641. In this case, Anwoth could only have been a separate parish *quoad sacra*, during Rutherford's incumbency,—and must still have been a part of Kirkdale and Kirkmabreck *quoad civilia*. The Rev. William Dalgleish was minister of the united parish of Kirkmabreck, Kirkdale, and Anwoth, till the appointment of Rutherford to Anwoth;—afterwards he continued minister of Kirkmabreck and Kirkdale till 1635, when he was deprived of his living by the bishop of the diocese. In 1637, he ventured to return to his flock, as Episcopacy began in that year to totter; and in 1638, he was a member of the famous General Assembly of Glasgow, as minister of Kirkmabreck. In 1639, he was translated to Cramond, near Edinburgh; but was deposed for non-conformity in 1662. He continued, under all circumstances, the friend and correspondent of Rutherford.\* In November 1686, Renwick received in this parish the famous protestation of Machutchison and others. And it is a singular fact, which I state on the authority of the present Mr M'Culloch of Barholm, that John Knox had his hiding-place in the old tower of Barholm for some time previous to his escape to the continent. This circumstance Mr M'Culloch learned from an old man of the name of Andrew Hughan, who was running footman to Mr M'Culloch's great great grandfather, and who said that he recollected John Knox's signature on the wall of the small arched apartment or bed-room at the head of the staircase.

This parish has also the honour of being the birth-place and burial-place of Dr Thomas Brown, Professor of Moral Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh. This distinguished individual was born in the old part of the present manse on the 9th January 1778. His father and grandfather were ministers of this parish. His grandfather was proprietor of Barharrow, and was married to a daughter of Murdoch of Cumlodan, a family that had been in possession of that estate from the time of Robert Bruce. His father was married to a daughter of John Smith, Esq. of the Customs, Wigtown; and his grandmother, Mrs Smith, was a daughter of a younger son of M'Dowal of Logan and of Miss Hamilton of Dalziel. †

Dr Brown was the youngest of thirteen children. His father

\* Dr Murray's Life of Samuel Rutherford, p. 84.

† Dr Murray's Literary History of Galloway.

died about eighteen months after he was born; but his mother survived her husband nearly forty years, and had the happiness of seeing her son attain to honour and favour. She did not leave the manse till about a year after her widowhood, when she removed with her family to Edinburgh, where she continued to reside. Thomas here remained for some years under the charge of his widowed mother, a person of great worth. By her he was taught the elements of learning at a singularly early age, acquiring the whole alphabet, it is said, at one lesson, and every thing else to which his attention was directed with the same amazing facility. When between four and five years of age, he was able to read the Scriptures, and also, it would appear, partly to understand them. One day at that period of his life, he was found sitting on the floor of his mother's parlour, with a large family Bible on his knee, which he was dividing into different parts with his hand. Being asked jocularly if he intended to preach, and was now choosing a text, he said, "No, I am only wishing to see what the Evangelists differ in, for they do not all give the same account of Christ." From the kindly tutelage of his mother he was removed in the seventh year of his age, and placed by his maternal uncle, Captain Smith, in a school at Camberwell, from which, in a short time, he was transferred to one at Cheswick, where he continued for some years. In these and two other academies he spent the years between seven and fourteen, and acquired an elegant classical education. In 1792, he returned to his maternal roof at Edinburgh, and commenced a course of attendance at the university. At this early period of his life he was deeply read in the English classics, and had even collected a considerable library, which unfortunately was lost at sea in its passage from England to Scotland. At the university he was a most distinguished student, especially in ethics. Dr Welsh, the accomplished biographer of Dr Brown, informs us, that the varied and profound acquirements of this extraordinary young man soon attracted to him the attention and friendship of many other personages distinguished by academic rank and literary reputation, especially Professors Robison, Playfair, and Black, and Messrs Horner, Leyden, Reddie, and Erskine. Ere he had completed his twentieth year, he wrote "Observations upon Dr Darwin's Zoonomia," which obtained for him the highest praise. Dr Welsh justly characterizes it as one of the most remarkable exemplifications of premature intellect which has ever been exhibited, and

as containing the germs of all his philosophy. Dr Brown obtained his degree of M. D. in 1803, on which occasion he was honoured with the highest encomiums of Dr Gregory. In the winter of 1808-9, he taught the moral philosophy class for Professor Stewart with wonderful success,—not only the students, but distinguished members of the bench, of the bar, and of the pulpit, were daily present to witness the powers of this rising philosopher. In 1810, he was appointed Professor Stewart's colleague in the chair of moral philosophy, which he filled with the highest honour to himself. In 1814, he published a poem entitled "The Paradise of Coquettes." In 1815, he published another, under the title of the "Wanderer in Norway." In 1816, the "War Fiend." In 1818, he published a poetical tale, entitled "Agnes." In 1819, "Emily." But his reputation in this walk of literature was not equal to his fame as a philosopher. In 1819, his health, which was never very good, became so precarious, and the symptoms of his disease so alarming, that, early in the session of 1819-20, he was obliged to appoint a substitute to deliver his lectures. At the recommendation of his physicians, he took a voyage to London, and established himself at Brompton. Here he gradually grew weaker until the 2d of April 1820, when he gently breathed his last. His remains were put into a leaden coffin, and, according to his own wish, were laid beside those of his father and mother in the churchyard of Kirkmaebreck.\*

Dr Brown's Lectures on Moral Philosophy were published after his death in four volumes, 8vo, and have deservedly obtained the highest reputation.† An admirable account of his life and writings has been published in one volume, 8vo, by the Rev. Dr Welsh, Professor of Church History in the University of Edinburgh. The biography of Dr Brown also holds a prominent place in the able and elaborate work of Dr Murray on the Literary History of Galloway. It has also found a place in Chambers's Scottish Biography. Dr Chalmers has also done homage to the transcendent genius of Dr Brown in his Bridgewater Treatise; and Sir James Mackintosh, in his masterly Dissertation on the History of Metaphysical Science, pays honour both to the head and heart of Dr Brown. "His mind," says he, "soared and roamed

\* "One of the most romantic and secluded spots that can possibly be imagined, and, so far as I know, without a parallel in this country."—*Dr Murray.*

† The character of Dr Brown was given in "The Christian Instructor," a few months after his death, in the most complimentary terms.



through every region of philosophy and poetry, but his untravelled heart clung to the hearth of his fathers."

Dr Brown, as I have already stated, was born in the manse and buried in the churchyard of Kirkmabreck, "in the tomb of his fathers." A handsome granite pillar has been erected over his grave, by his only surviving sister. A public monument has long been talked of.\* A number of subscriptions have already been obtained; and it is hoped that the day is at hand when justice shall be done to the memory of one whose fame is as wide as the range of metaphysical science; and having thus erected a *monument to his country*, it is not too much to expect that his country should now erect a *monument to him*.

Samuel Douglas, the founder of "the Douglas Academy" at Newton-Stewart, was born in this parish. Mr Douglas bequeathed about L.17,000, to build and endow this academy, for the benefit of Kirkmabreck and Newton-Stewart, and appointed the minister of Penninghame and his three senior elders, and the minister of Kirkmabreck and his three senior elders, as trustees over the institution in all time to come.

Several individuals who have risen to affluence and honour in the walks of commerce were also born in this parish. Amongst these the names of the late Mr Hughan of Airds, and Mr Kerr of Argrennan, may be mentioned.

*Antiquities.*—There are a number of circles of large standing-stones in this parish, such as those supposed by some to be the remains of Druidic temples, by others, courts of justice, and by not a few, the rude memorials of a battle-field, intended to mark the spot where the slain had fallen and been buried. There is another conjecture concerning some of them, which, although less romantic, and less interesting to the antiquarian, may also be given. In this as well as in many parishes of Galloway, there were, in olden times, almost no fences. Sheep and cattle were on this account more liable to stray from their own pasture. It was common, therefore, to have enclosures or *ponds*, into which strayed cattle were put or *ponded*, till their owners found it convenient to send for them. These enclosures were generally of stone, and contained plenty of water for the use of the cattle when shut up. As fences became more abundant, these ponds became less necessary, and gradually fell into disuse; the ruins of which are still to be found in this as well as in many other parishes of Scotland. These ruins are sometimes so far obliterated, as to render it diffi-

\* To be erected upon the glebe.

cult to trace their outline, or to tell what purpose they had once served.

At Claens Mid-Spittal there are several traces of some ancient building, most probably an hospital,—Spittal being an abridgement of this name. Mr Burnie, a few years ago, in his farming operations near Claens, got the remains of some old windows, with leaden frames, with scarcely two panes of the same size, and a quantity of human bones. It appears also, from the ruins of an old dike, as if a few acres of land had at one time been enclosed here. These things strengthen the supposition, that, at some early period, an hospital had been erected here, and that the dead had been buried within this enclosure.

In Cambret Moor, in the days of Symson, there was a stone of four or five feet in diameter, called “the Penny Stone,” under which money was supposed to have been concealed. This stone had upon it the resemblance of that draught which is commonly called the walls of Troy. It is to be feared some avaricious person has destroyed this stone, in the hope of finding the hidden treasure, because it is not now to be found.

In the south-east district of the parish, there was anciently a chapel, dedicated to Saint Briget, and named Kilbride. It stood near the shore of Wigtown Bay, not far from the farm of Carsluth, where a hamlet still bears the name of Kirkbride. Of this chapel, like the statue formerly referred to, there is now no trace, and no tradition.

About the year 1809 Mr M'Lean of Mark, while improving a field in the moor of Glenquicken in Kirkmabreck parish, found it necessary to remove a large cairn, which is said by tradition to have been the tomb of a king of Scotland, who is not in the genuine series, Aldus M'Galdus, M'Gillus, or M'Gill. When the cairn had been removed the workmen came to a stone coffin, of very rude workmanship; and, on removing the lid, they found the skeleton of a man of uncommon size. The bones were in such a state of decomposition, that the ribs and vertebræ crumbled into dust on attempting to lift them. The remaining bones being more compact, were taken out, when it was discovered that one of the arms had been almost separated from the shoulder by the stroke of a stone axe, and that a fragment of the axe still remained in the bone. The axe had been of green stone, a species of stone never found in this part of Scotland. There was also found with this skeleton a ball of flint about three inches in diameter, which was perfectly round, and highly polished, and the head of an ar-

row, that was also of flint, but not a particle of any metallic substance was found.\*

About the year 1778, in removing a quantity of stones for building dikes from a large tumulus in Glenquicken Moor, there was found a stone coffin, containing a human skeleton, which was greatly above the ordinary size. There was also found in this sepulchral monument an urn containing ashes, and an earthen pitcher. The urn seems to evince the antiquity of this tumulus, when the British practised funeral cremation. This tumulus is called Cairnywanie. † Thus we have an account of two skeletons of very large size, found in Glenquicken Moor at different times. These facts seem to confirm the tradition that a battle had taken place here at some very remote period. History informs us of a battle having been fought on the river Cree, about the year A. D. 310, wherein the Picts joined the Romans under Maximus their general, against the Scots under their King Eugenius, but wherein the Scots were overthrown. ‡ Whether this conflict took place on Glenquicken Moor or not, it seems difficult to determine.

But the most memorable place of antiquity in the parish is called Cairnholy. The tumulus of this name, when opened up many years ago, § was found to contain a large kistvaen of flat stones. The upper stone is so large, that curiosity has not yet removed it, to discover the contents below. On each side of this tomb, at the distance of 100 yards, there are the marks of many graves, and at most of these were placed rude stones of memorial, in the upright manner of the common grave-stones. It is to be regretted that some of these have been removed, and that others are in a state of dilapidation. The history of this holy cairn is involved in much obscurity. King Galdus, who is supposed to have given his own name to Galloway, is said to be here inhumed. This is no doubt the fabulous Corbredus Galdus of Boece and Buchanan, who, according to their fictions, opposed Agricola in arms. Admitting, however, the existence of King Galdus, and that he was slain in battle in Galloway, it is not probable that he was buried at Cairnholy. It is more probable that he was buried in Torhouse Moor, in the parish of Wigtown, where there is a monument of three large whinstones, called King Galdus's Tomb. This opinion has obtained the sanction of the celebrated antiquarian, Sir Robert

\* Captain Denniston's Letter to Mr Train of Newton-Stewart, dated 22d October 1819.

† Cairnywanie, which signifies a green field.

‡ Statistical Account, p. 551, Vol. xv.

§ About 160 years ago;—Symson's Description of Galloway.

Sibbald, and of Timothy Pont.\* Although Buchanan says that King Galdus died a natural death after a glorious reign of thirty-five years.

There is another account given of this cairn which we submit. About the year 1150, three years before the demise of David I, it is said there was a battle fought on Glenquicken Moor, between the English and Scots, wherein the Scots were defeated and their general killed,—when the Bishop of Whithorn assumed the command; but his troops being defeated, immediately fled towards the shore to their boats, and being overtaken by the enemy at Cairnholy, the bishop, and many of his men, were slain and buried. From this circumstance, it was called the Holy Cairn. This supposition is apparently strengthened from the fact, that there is a little rivulet or burn, that runs through the place where the battle is said to have been fought, that still retains the name of the Englishman's burn.† Chalmers, however, in his Caledonia, says, that there was no such battle fought between the Scots and English on Glenquicken Moor in 1150. Thus we are compelled to leave the history of Cairnholy in the same state of mystery in which we found it.

*Mansion-Houses.*—The principal mansion-houses in the parish are, Kirkdale House, Barholm House, Hill House, and Cassen-carrie.

Kirkdale House, the seat of Miss Hannay, is a magnificent building of the Grecian order of architecture, from the design of Mr Adam. It is wholly built of beautiful polished granite of exquisite workmanship; and, until the late repairs upon the princely mansion of Mr Murray of Cally, M. P., it was without a rival in Galloway. It is stated in the old Statistical Account that the Bishop of Derry, on seeing the house of the late Sir S. Hannay, was so much charmed with the stone, that he immediately contracted with the superintendent of that work for the building of the spires of two churches in his diocese, which were all to be executed with this stone. The situation is even worthy of the building. The scenery around is of the finest description, combining the charms of the lovely, the picturesque, and the romantic. Altogether the house and views of Kirkdale ought to hold a high place among the beauties of Scotland. The views from Kirkdale House are singularly striking and beautiful in moonlight.

Barholm House, the seat of John M'Culloch, Esq. is a hand-

\* See his Galloway Topographical.

† Stat. Account, Vol. xv. p. 552.

some building. The design is chaste, and the approaches are laid off with much taste.

Hill House, the property of Thomas Hughan, Esq. of Airds, is a very substantial building. The front of the house is of polished granite.

Cassencarrie is an old building, and contains an old tower within its walls.

### III.—POPULATION.

The population of this parish has increased slowly but gradually for many years. In Dr Webster's list in 1755 the numbers were rated at 858. In the year 1764 the whole population amounted to only 680; of which the Ferry-Town of Cree, (now Creetown,) contained 104. The landward part of the parish has altered very little in point of population since that period. The principal increase has been in Creetown, and the following table will show the increase at different times:—

	Fami- lies.	Un. 10 yrs.	Ab. 10 yrs.	Tot.	Bir.	Mar.	Deaths.	Creetown & parish.
In 1764 Creetown contained	34	20	84	104	4	0	1	680
1774, Do. Do.	120	73	294	367	11	2	3	913
1784, Do. Do.	145	88	354	442	15	3	6	992
1794, Do. Do.	183	142	409	551	19	6	23*	1068
In 1794 the whole parish contained	289	249	839	1068	38	9	27	1187
1804, Do. Do.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1256
1821, Do. Do.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1519
1831, Do. Do.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1779
1840, Do. Do.	397	550	1486	.	.	.	.	2036

The population of this parish in 1841, according to the Government census, was 1854; number of inhabited houses, 404; number of distinct families, 407; number of widows, 76; number of widowers, 20.

In 1840, number of families in the parish,	397
Do. chiefly employed in agriculture, trade, manufactures, and handicraft,	78 115
Population in Creetown,	1226
the country,	810
Belonging to the Church,	1694
Dissenters, including Roman Catholics, &c.,	342
Yearly average of marriages for the last seven years,	15½
births,	51

No regular record of burials.

Table, showing the population of the whole parish in 1840 at different ages.

Age.	No.
Under 6,	327
12,	650
15,	789
20,	976
30,	1266
40,	1474

\* Of the 23 children that died in Creetown in 1794, 12 died of small-pox.

Age.	No.
Under 50, . . .	1680
60, . . .	1807
70, . . .	1933
80, . . .	1996
90, . . .	2036 Total

The population has increased considerably since 1831, in consequence of the Liverpool Dock Company having opened a very large granite quarry in this parish, at which they have from 60 to 450 men occasionally employed. From this statement it must appear that the population has been very fluctuating since the commencement of the quarry. In 1834, when the greatest number of workmen was employed, the population was as high as 2500.

*Character, &c. of the People.*—In general the people of this parish are industrious, intelligent, and sober. Many of them very correct in their morals and sound in their religious principles. The inhabitants are healthy and peaceable, and, as a proof of their sobriety, it may be mentioned that there is a Tee Total Society in Creetown with upwards of 300 members.

Poaching and smuggling were at one time but too common. The former is now little followed, and the latter is entirely unknown.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

##### *Agriculture.*—

Number of acres imperial that have been cultivated, about	5300
of meadow, about	900
Land that has never been cultivated, quantity unknown.	

These quantities are partly conjectural, the whole parish never having been accurately measured, so far as I know. With regard to the number of acres that might, with a profitable application of capital, be added to the cultivated land of the parish, there may be a considerable difference of opinion. But I have no doubt, by the use of bone-dust upon the steep and dry land, and the introduction of tile-draining into the mossy and wet land, 1000 acres might be reclaimed with advantage. The practice of the Duke of Portland, in draining the land for his tenants, and charging them a certain percentage upon the money expended, would prodigiously improve the appearance and fertility of Galloway, and it would be good for the tenants in this parish if the practice of the Earl of Selkirk, in giving lime, were followed by our landlords.

There is no land in this parish in a state of undivided common. There are about 1000 acres under wood, two-thirds of which may be natural, and one-third planted. Oak, ash, hazel, alder, and thorn, are indigenous; and the trees that have been planted are in general a few of the most common varieties of the fir and oak, beech, sycamore, chestnut, and elm.

The woods are in general judiciously managed; thinning, pruning, and felling being all attended to in their proper seasons, and conducted according to the most approved methods.

*Rent.*—The average rent of arable land per imperial acre may be about 15s. yearly. The average rent of grazing an ox or cow may be rated at L. 2, 15s. yearly. Black-faced sheep, on hill pasture, about L. 4 per score; white-faced, pastured on low land, according to the size, say about L. 7, 10s. per score.

*Wages.*—The rate of wages varies here as in other places; but, in general, common labourers receive 1s. 6d. per day of ten hours; farm-servants about L. 25 yearly, without victuals, or L. 11, 10s. with them; women servants, L. 6 per annum, with victuals. Rate of wages for masons, carpenters, and smiths, from 2s. 6d. to 3s. per day. At the quarry, the wages are in general higher than these rates, both for labourers and artisans. A table of the rate of wages in this parish in the year 1794 is here subjoined:—Masons and joiners, from 1s. 8d. to 2s., without victuals; tailors and shoemakers, from 8d. to 10d., with victuals; an experienced manservant, from L. 8 to L. 9 per annum; women-servants, from L. 3 to L. 4 per annum.

The prices of produce are of course variable. In general they are regulated by the Dumfries and Liverpool markets. The average may be stated, for wheat, per imperial bushel, at 6s. 6d.; of barley, 3s. 6d.; of oats, 2s. 4d.; of potatoes, per bushel, 10d.; of rye grass hay, 26 lb., 7d.; black-faced wool, 6d. per lb.; white-faced, 1s. do.; butter, 10d. per lb.; cheese, 6d. do.; eggs, 4d. to 6d., seldom more. A good cart, L. 9, 8s.; an iron plough, L. 4, 10s.; a double harrow, L. 1, 15s.; a drill harrow, L. 1, 10s. Shoeing of a horse, 2s. 8d. Horses are cheap in this parish. A good sound young horse, fit for country work, may be had for L. 16, and sometimes even less. Cattle have been high for the last three years. The best two-year-old Galloways have brought L. 9; the best three-year-old, L. 11; good Ayrshire cows, about L. 11.

*Live-Stock.*—The live-stock have already been described. Under this head it may merely be stated, that the sheep are in general black-faced, of a small size. The white-faced are Leicester and Cheviot, and crosses from these, &c. The black-cattle are in general “pure Galloways.” Ayrshire cows are increasing very much in this parish. \*

*Husbandry.*—The system of husbandry in this parish is improving rapidly, by the introduction of bone dust and guano, by greater

\* Ayrshire cows are already beginning to decrease, (1844.)

attention to cleaning the land, and by following the most approved rotation of cropping. There are still a few who cling to the old system, and who would do well to imitate the example of their more enterprising neighbours.

The rotation that is perhaps best adapted to this parish is, one grain crop—a green crop—a grain crop—and the land sown down in rye grass and clover, not cut, but eaten on the ground, and to remain in pasture a longer or shorter period according to circumstances.

Mr M'Lean of Mark, many years ago, received the Highland Society's medal for reclaiming waste land. Improvement in this way is still progressing, though slowly. Indeed, some of the tenants have but little encouragement, being left to struggle with a heavy rent, a short lease, miserable houses, and wretched fences.

Shelling land, which at one time was employed to a great extent in this parish, is now but little followed. There have been about fifteen acres of land reclaimed upon the Cassencarrie shore by an embankment of "rubbish" from the quarry, by the Liverpool Dock Trustees. The land is rapidly rising by the deposit that is left by the ebbing and flowing of the tide, and the decomposition of the salt water, and will soon be a field of valuable pasture. There are many acres upon the shores of Kirkbride and the glebe capable of being reclaimed by *warping*, a system which has been introduced by the Hon. Montgomery Stewart on the other side of the bay with great effect, and which is much cheaper than embanking. Indeed, by this process the land is gradually raised, and the tide is made to embank itself.\*

*Leases.*—There are a great many tenants in this parish under yearly leases, a system which operates most powerfully against improvement. Others are more fortunate in having longer leases. They vary from three to nineteen years. There are a few old leases even much longer, although not liferents. Some of the old leases are upon very favourable terms to the occupant; but of late years the competition for farms has become so great, that, it is to be feared, in some of the new leases, the tenants are over-rented. This is an evil which will eventually cure itself, but for which, in the meantime, the tenants have themselves to blame. The farm-houses upon the Kirkdale property are in general good, and kept in excellent repair; and very neat and comfortable farm-houses have been lately built at Cuil, Carsewalloch, &c.; but upon several properties the houses are miserable.

\* This system was introduced by Mr Stewart on Lord Galloway's property; several embankments have also been raised in the bay lately; and it is expected that many hundreds of acres will soon be inclosed, and in valuable pasture.



There are many obstacles to the improvement of land in this parish, and amongst these may be mentioned the high price of lime; the want of capital in some cases,—the want of encouragement in others; and, in too many, the want of houses and leases.

*Quarries and Mines.*—There was a copper mine lately opened at Craigneuk, and a lead mine at Glen; and at one time there was a trial made for lead at Blairs; but none of them succeeded.

“*The Quarry.*”—There is a large granite quarry in this parish, immediately behind the glebe. It was opened about ten years ago, by the Trustees of the Liverpool Docks, for the purpose of procuring stones for the docks. The working of this quarry, in 1834, cost nearly L.15,000, including rent, and tonnage of vessels, &c. At that time there were upwards of 450 men and boys employed. There are only about 60 at present.\* This quarry is wrought in *three breasts* of about 30 feet high each, the one above and behind the other. The operations are conducted with much skill and regularity. At one time powder was very much employed in this work: 50, 60, and as high as 70 pounds were used in one blast. These explosions were felt and heard at a considerable distance, as the slight shocks of an earthquake. The use of powder, however, except in opening up corners, has been for some time entirely given up. Blasting was found to shake and frequently to destroy some of the finest blocks. Drills, wedges, crowbars, sledge-hammers, and cranes, are now principally used in quarrying even the largest masses; and it is truly astonishing to see with what facility even mountains can be removed by *handicraft*.

The *modus operandi* may be shortly described. In the quarry the rocks are stratified. The strata are perpendicular, and vary in thickness from nine inches to five feet. When a mass is to be separated, wedges are introduced between the strata, and are driven down with sledge-hammers until a separation is effected. A large crowbar, well manned, is then applied, to throw down the mass to the bottom of the quarry. This accomplished, the next thing is to cut up the stone into blocks as large as the materials will admit of. And this part of the work is perhaps the most interesting process of the whole. The rude and unshapely mass may be 5 feet thick, and 10 or 12 feet long, and must be cut into the form of a parallelogram,† to fit with mathematical precision its own appointed place in the docks. Holes are bored 4 or 5 inches deep, with a drill or jumper, and 8 or 9 inches apart, in the line the

\* In 1840 there were only about 60 men employed; there are now above 160.

† Or to any shape that may be required.

stone is to be split. A block of 14 tons is soon cut to the size and shape required, by the power of the "plug and feather." As the "plug and feather" have extraordinary mechanical powers—are of great use in quarrying operations—and are rather a novelty "in these parts," a description of them may here be given. When a hole has been bored of the required depth, two wedges are introduced into the hole, with the thick end down, and a third is introduced between them, with the small end down, and by driving the one in the centre, the combined power of three wedges is thus obtained, and made to bear upon every hole, and thus split the stone. A few holes charged with "plug and feather" will be found sufficient to split a very large stone. In splitting granite in this way, the quarrymen are careful to place the holes and the wedges parallel with the *reed* or *grain* of the stone. This arrangement renders the process comparatively easy; and the skilful workmen can shape their blocks and paving-stones with as much comfort as if they were cutting wood in a saw-mill. As a proof of the extraordinary power of the "plug and feather," it may be stated, upon the authority of the present skilful overseer, that masses of 500 tons are sometimes lifted or removed by their aid. The cranes, chains, rails, waggons, "braiks," employed about the quarry are all of the strongest description. There is one very fine traversing crane. There are several "inclines." The largest is upwards of 300 yards, and rises about an angle of 40°. The railroad on this incline is double, so that the loaded waggons in going down the one road draw up the empty waggons on the other.

*Fisheries.*—There are several fisheries in this parish upon the Cree, and in the bay, principally for salmon, spirlings, flounders, herring, &c.; and the nets employed for taking them are stake-nets, bag-nets, draught-nets, fish-yards, and half-nets. The rental of all the fisheries in the parish may be about L.100 a-year.

*Manufactures.*—Kelp was at one time manufactured in this parish, but is now given up. This, however, is not to be regretted, because the sea-weed may be turned to a much better account in manuring the land. The tan-work, cotton factory, and mill for shot lead,\* mentioned in the old Statistical Account as having been in operation in Creetown in 1794, have long been given up. There is at present a small carpet manufactory near Creetown, which lately employed about thirty hands. In the meantime there is little doing. Prices have not been remunerat-

\* It was here the first patent shot was made.

ing. Men, women, and children employed at the mill generally work six days a-week, and twelve or thirteen hours each day,—certainly too long hours, especially for children, and must be injurious to their health. There are two saw mills and two grain mills in the parish.

*Navigation.*—There is one smack belonging to Creetown of 47 tons burthen. There are also several vessels, from 20 to 50 tons burthen, that frequent Palnure and Creetown ports. Besides these there are occasionally foreign vessels with tar and timber. We have also trading and coal vessels from Whitehaven; and from one to eleven schooners have been regularly employed since the opening of the quarry in carrying granite to the Liverpool docks. Three schooners have been lost in the granite trade, and in two of them all hands perished. The Cree is the only river navigable in this parish, and is so as far as Carty.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Town.*—The nearest market-town is Newton-Stewart, and is only six miles distant from Creetown.

*Villages.*—On the Cree there was a considerable village in 1300, when the English army rendezvoused here. It was then called *Creth*.\* It was afterwards called the Ferry Town of Cree, from a common passage over the river at this place, and more recently it obtained the present name of Creetown. It is probable that the ancient village had long disappeared before the present one began, because it is stated† that Creetown was begun in 1785, and, in 1792, it consisted of 50 dwellings, and 50 more were laid out. There are a few old houses in Creetown, which were built long before 1785.

It was erected into a burgh of barony through the influence of John M'Culloch, Esq. of Barholm, on the 13th December 1791, and registered at Edinburgh, 27th January 1792. One bailie and four councillors are elected triennially by the resident feuars according to the charter. About the year 1790, a small cotton manufactory was established, with a tan-yard, and a mill for making shot-lead. These have been discontinued for many years. The old shot-mill has been lately repaired and fitted up with machinery, for the purpose, it is supposed, of making potato-starch, &c. The old cotton factory has been changed into a carpet manufactory, which has already been noticed under its proper head. A town hall and lock-up have lately been erected in Creetown, which have been found most useful.

\* Chalmers' Caledonia.

† Stat. Account, 255.

The situation of Creetown is very picturesque. It is built between two rivulets or burns and four bridges. The gardens are so abundantly stocked with fruit-trees, that in spring, when the blossoms are exuberant, the village appears as if it had been built in an orchard. The scenery around is particularly beautiful. On the west lies the Bay of Wigton with its boats and smacks; on the north, the fine plantations and mansion-house of Barholm; and above and behind the village stands Hill House, begirt with ornamental trees; and the new church, with its handsome tower and cathedral roof,—with the Larg hill and the woods of Casencarrie—close in and enrich the landscape in the south. These beauties did not escape the observation of Mr M'Diarmid in his *Sketches of Nature*. He describes them with much of his characteristic humour and raciness, and numbers among the eccentricities of our streets, the cherry-trees that adorn the walls of some of the houses, and the blacksmith's sign, who shod horses on the principles of expansion. The drive between Creetown and Gatehouse is one of the finest in the south of Scotland.

*Post-Office.*—There is a post-office in Creetown. The Irish mail comes in at 11 o'clock, P. M., and the Dumfries mail at 2 o'clock, A. M. daily. Letters are delivered at the houses of all within the burgh.

*Turnpike Roads.*—The length of the turnpike road that passes through this parish is nine miles. The road is remarkably well kept and thoroughly Macadamized. The Dumfries and Portpatrick mail-coaches travel this road daily. There are also regular carriers to Newton-Stewart, Gatehouse, and Dumfries. The bridges are in good repair, and substantially built. There are no railroads in the parish, except at the Quarry.

*Fences.*—The fences in this parish are in general built of stone. Some of them are well built and in good repair, but too many of them are the very reverse. There are many specimens of both the single and double dike, five and six quarters high.\* There are few hedges, although thorns grow remarkably well, and would be a great ornament to the parish. Indeed there is a number of very fine old thorn trees in the parish, of a large size. One hundred years ago, there were few fences of any kind in this part of the country. Now they are very numerous, such as they are, and may measure not less than fifty miles in this parish.

The land is stony, and the general plan is to quarry the stones out of the field that is to be enclosed. This answers the double

\* A quarter is ten inches.

purpose of clearing the ground and fencing it at the same time. A great deal more might be done in this way with advantage.

*Harbours.*—At the “Point of Casziel,” there was a harbour built about ten years ago, by the Liverpool Dock Company, for the purpose of loading their schooners with granite. At Palnure a place has been fitted up for loading and unloading small vessels, but which is not worthy of the name of a harbour. At Creetown the vessels are moored upon the beach, no other accommodation having as yet been provided.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church is built upon the Clauchan Croft, near Creetown, and is very conveniently situated for the inhabitants of the village, although not particularly so for the landward part of the population. On the southern and eastern extremities of the parish, some of the people are six miles from church.

The present church was opened for public worship on the 14th December 1834. It is in excellent repair, and was reckoned, at the time it was built, the handsomest church in Galloway. It is seated to hold about 800. The landward population have their sittings free. The inhabitants of Creetown have hitherto paid 1s. each sitting yearly, which goes to the poor. Even this small charge will soon be abolished, and the Gospel will be preached to all “without money and without price.”

The following table contains a list, so far as can be ascertained, of the ministers of this parish since the Reformation:—John Moffet, (1535 to 1589);\* James Donaldson, (1597); John Kallender, (1601 to 1603); William Dalglish; Samuel Row; Patrick Peacock; Andrew Naughley; ——— Shaw; Patrick Peacock again, (1689 to 1691); David Edgar, (1693 to 1701); Samuel Brown, ordained 31st March 1703, died 17th May 1751; Samuel Brown, ordained 6th August 1752, died 23d July 1779; John Inglis, ordained 12th October 1780, deposed 17th April 1804; John Sibbald, ordained 20th April 1809, died 20th December 1833; John Muir, ordained 19th June 1834.

*Manse.*—I have not been able to ascertain when the old part of the manse was built. It must have been at least 130 years ago, because the Browns lived in it. The antiquity of the building may be conjectured from the thickness of the gable walls.† Repairs

\* In 1567 Thomas Regnall was reader and vicar of Kirkdale, and John Moffett, exhorter of Kirkmabreck.—*Hist. Gall.*

† Four and a half feet thick.

have been executed and additions built at different periods. The last repairs and additions were made in 1835. The manse is now a handsome and substantial building, and is both comfortable and commodious. And it is but justice to state, that the heritors have been most liberal. The situation of the manse is much admired. It stands on an eminence about 150 yards from the sea, and commands a most extensive view. Although it is about 70 feet above the level of the sea, four churches, twelve parishes, and the Isle of Man may be seen from the front door.

*Glebe.*—The glebe contains nearly thirty acres. About the half of it is arable, the other half is very rough, steep, and rocky, and about seven acres of it are under wood. Some fields have lately been cleared of stones, and new fences built, and some other improvements made, which will soon render it more valuable. In the meantime it is worth L.20 per annum. As the glebe lies along a flat shore, it is capable of being greatly extended by warping and embanking. There are at least forty acres that might be reclaimed in this way.

*Stipend.*—The stipend of this parish is sixteen chalders, half meal, and half barley;—a part of it has been commuted (into money) to the amount of L.104, including L.8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements.

*Dissenters.*—There is one place of worship in Creetown belonging to the Seceders. It will hold about 300. It is reported that the minister's stipend is about L.80, and is paid by the congregation.

Divine service is in general well attended at both places of worship; and, in addition to the usual service during the day, there is sermon regularly in the parish church on Sabbath evening, and a lecture every Thursday evening at seven o'clock. Tracts are distributed monthly; and Sabbath schools and prayer meetings in connection with both congregations. The Lord's Supper is dispensed twice a-year in each place of worship.\* It is hoped by the diligent and prayerful use of all these means much good may be done.

There are 27 families belonging to the Seceders; 27 to the Roman Catholics; 1 to the Episcopalians; 1 to the Cameronians; 340 to the Church of Scotland.† The average number of

\* It is now dispensed thrice in the Seceders.

† Dissent has rather increased since the unfortunate secession from the Church of Scotland in May 1843. There are a few "Free Kirk" adherents in Creetown.

communicants belonging to the Church for the last seven years has been about 500. Last year L.14, 4s. were collected for the General Assembly's four schemes; besides L.4 for the Sabbath schools; L.5, 10s. for a church in Armagh; L.2, 0s. 3d. for the education of the blind in Edinburgh. I am not aware of the sums collected by the Seceders for religious purposes; but I believe it is very considerable, according to their numbers.

*Education.*—There are five schools in the parish, viz. the parochial school; a subscription school of industry for females; two schools at the teachers' own adventure, all in Creetown; and one school in the country, partly supported by the heritors and partly at the teacher's own adventure.\*

*Branches taught.*—Reading, writing, arithmetic, English grammar, geography, mathematics, Latin, French, and, in the "female school of industry,"† besides the elementary branches of education, sewing, knitting, &c. are also taught.

*Schoolmaster's Salary, &c.*—The schoolmaster's salary is the maximum, viz. L. 34, 4s. 4½d. per annum. His house has the legal accommodation, and the school-fees may amount to about L. 26 yearly.

*Rate of School-Fees.*—Reading, 2s. per quarter; reading and writing, 2s. 6d.; reading, writing, and arithmetic, 3s. All these branches with English grammar, 4s.; ditto with Latin, 6s.; ditto with French, 7s.; ditto with geography, 5s. These are the terms at the parish school. At the private schools they are about the same (in the branches taught.) At the school of industry, 30 girls are taught free; they have also occasionally received books and a part of their clothing.

It is to be regretted that the accommodation in the parochial school is by no means what it ought to be,—an evil which, it is hoped, the heritors will speedily remedy.

*Literature.*—There is a circulating library in Creetown, and also a small library in connection with the Sabbath schools. It would be an improvement, if a well-selected subscription library were established for the benefit of the whole parish.

*Poor's Funds.*—The average number of regular paupers is about 30, and of occasional paupers 10. The alimnt allowed to each varies according to circumstances, and runs from L. 1 to L. 8 per annum. About L.95 are paid out of the poor's funds annually for

\* This teacher has a free house and garden from Kirkdale, and L. 10 yearly from the heritors.

† This school is also under the patronage of Miss Hannay of Kirkdale.

the relief of the poor, besides a donation of L.40 a-year from Mrs Hingham of Cotswold House. The poor's funds are supplied in the following manner: church collections, L.48 yearly; proclamation dues, hearse hire, &c., L.7; voluntary assessment from the heritors, L.40;—L.95.\* There is now but little disposition among the people to refrain from seeking parochial relief except amongst a few of the old residenters.

*Prisons.*—There is an excellent lock-up in Creetown, and it is to the praise of the people that it is now but seldom used.

*Inns and Ale-houses.*—There are eight inns and public houses in the parish, which are in general well kept; consequently they are much less injurious to the morals of the people than they otherwise would be; although half the number would be quite sufficient for the entertainment of travellers and the convenience of the population.

*Fuel.*—Both coals and peats are very much used. Coals are in general brought from Whitehaven, and cost about 16s. per ton. Peats are procured from the mosses in the parish, and cost from 2s. to 2s. 6d. a-cart. The practice referred to in the old Statistical Account, of the poor people cutting whins and brushwood for burning, is still common. Coals are now (1844) only 13s. 4d. per ton.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Since the last Statistical Account was written in 1794, the population has increased about 500; wages and prices have risen about 50 per cent.; the rental of the parish has greatly increased, the style of husbandry has improved, and a great many fences have been built. Schools have become more numerous, and church accommodation more abundant. The quarry has been opened, and new fisheries established; and although the manufacturing and shipping have diminished, yet the "political economy" of the parish may be represented as in a prosperous and improving condition; and my heart's desire and prayer is, that the piety which adorned this corner of the vineyard in the days of Rutherford, Dalgleish, and Peacock, may adorn it still.

\* The number of paupers has lately increased considerably. There are at present 57 regular paupers on the roll, and it will now require above L.200 per annum to pay their alimant.

*Drawn up in 1840.*  
*Revised April 1844.*



## PARISH OF URR.\*

PRESBYTERY OF DUMFRIES, SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.

THE REV. GEORGE M. BURNSIDE, MINISTER.

---

### L—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name and Situation.*—ACCORDING to the former Statistical Account of this parish, the ancient orthography was Vr, and the pronunciation Wur or Whur, though it has long been frequently pronounced and spelt Orr. The lake out of which the river Urr, which bounds this parish for a considerable distance on the west side, issues, is called Loch Whur to this day; and there are still some people in this country whose family name is M<sup>c</sup>Whir.

*Boundaries.*—The parish is bounded on the east by the parishes of Lochrutton and Kirkgunzeon; on the south, by Colvend and Buittle; on the west, by Crossmichael; and on the north, by Kirkpatrick-Durham and Kirkpatrick-Irongray.

The wind is generally from the south-west, and almost all the heavy gales are also from that direction.

*Extent and Mountains.*—The length of Urr, nearly from north to south, is about 16 English miles, and its average breadth about 2½ miles. The total surface of the parish must therefore be about 40 square miles. The only mountains of any considerable altitude are a range at the head of the parish, called the Larg-hills, where it is supposed coal might be obtained. The summit of the Larg-hills is about 600 feet above the level of the sea. Upon these hills lie the remains of four of the Covenanters who fell there, upon the bleak heath, victims to the persecution of Grahame of Claverhouse. A tombstone is erected at the place to their memory, and surrounded with a wall enclosing a small plantation.

*Lakes.*—About three miles distant from the Larg hills, and in this parish towards its boundaries, are situated two lakes or lochs, of considerable extent and depth. These are Milton and Achenreoch lochs. The former is about three miles in circumference, and the latter about two and a half miles. They abound

\* Drawn up by the late Rev. John M<sup>c</sup>Whir, Minister of Urr.

with pike and perch, which are caught, at certain seasons, in considerable numbers.

*River.*—The parish of Urr extends to near the mouth of the river Urr, which flows into the Solway Frith, and which, in general, bounds the parish on the west for the space of about ten miles. Salmon and sundry species of fresh water fish are caught in this river. The salmon, however, are much destroyed by night-poaching, and, with a few exceptions, the proprietors are culpable in not using means to prevent such an illegal and pernicious practice.

*Soil.*—Except a moorish portion of the upper part of the parish, and intersections of granite rocks, and a portion of moss at the under part of it, the soil of Urr is in general light and kindly, and the arable land in the parish is perhaps in proportion to that which cannot be ploughed as 12 to 1.

The plantations in the parish cover about 800 acres.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

It would appear that, in the upper part of the parish, there was, in former times, a place of worship, probably Popish, and on the site of the building (which is on the property of Meikle Kirkland,) there were found, several years ago, some human bones and a quantity of melted lead. It is supposed that the building was consumed by fire, soon after the Reformation from Popery in Scotland.

Mr John Hepburn, whose memory is held in great veneration in this country, and in the parish of Urr in particular, was the first Presbyterian minister of this parish, after the Revolution of 1688. Three several calls to this parish, the last in 1689, he accepted. Before this time, he had received Presbyterian ordination at London, though, on account of the persecution against Presbyterians, his ordination was rather of a private nature. He preached also in the parish of Kirkgunzeon, which was then vacant. Besides his usual labours in this district, he preached sometimes in several other parishes in the west of Scotland, to many hearers, who, like himself, were displeased with some of the proceedings, both of the Church and State, about and after the Revolution of 1688. These adherents of Mr Hepburn published, in the year 1713, a book which they called *Humble Pleadings for the Good Old Way*, in which they state their principles, with thirty-four grievances, and the treatment which they and Mr Hepburn received from the office-bearers, both of Church and State. In the year 1695, he was suspended by the General Assembly from the ex-

ercise of his ministerial functions, on account of his ministerial actings independently of the sanction and authority of the Church courts, which had many proceedings against him. This suspension was removed by the General Assembly in the year 1699. In the year 1696, he was tried by the Privy-Council for using some expressions which were supposed to be treasonable, and for which he suffered imprisonment for about three years, first in the Tolbooth of Edinburgh, and afterwards in the Castle of Stirling. In the year 1704, he was again suspended, and that by the commission of the General Assembly, for not appearing to answer the charges brought against him by libel, for certain expressions he had used against the oath of allegiance and assurance; and, in the year 1705, he was, by the General Assembly, deposed, as being guilty of teaching seditious doctrines, and following schismatic courses; but partly in consequence of a protest by the heritors, elders, and the other inhabitants of the parish of Urr against the said sentence, and partly by his conciliating declarations, he was reponed by the commission of the General Assembly in the year 1707. In some of the proceedings against him, he was accused of never having administered the ordinance of the Lord's Supper in the parish of Urr, for which omission he pleaded his peculiar circumstances, in regard to his brethren in the ministry, and the danger of corrupt communion; but he was desirous that these hindrances might be removed. Remarkable effects, however, were sometimes produced by his ministry, and especially by his preaching, some crying out "What shall we do to be saved?" and others falling into a swoon. These effects were salutary to many, but only temporary to others, who soon returned to their sinful courses. Mr Hepburn and his adherents in the south and west of Scotland were much opposed to the union of the two kingdoms of England and Scotland, to the Act of Toleration, the ambiguous nature of the oath of abjuration and supremacy, and some other public matters, all of which they thought fraught with danger to Presbyterian government and true religious liberty in Scotland, and contrary to the Solemn League and Covenant; and, upon these subjects, they drew up a memorial, to be presented to the General Assembly in the year 1712, praying the Assembly to cause a religious fast to be held throughout the church, on account of these sins in Church and State. This memorial, though considered in the committees both of bills and overtures, was not read in the

Assembly, but a sub-committee was appointed to confer with Mr Hepburn and his friends concerning the said memorial. Upon the whole, there is reason to believe that he was a great and good man, though he may have, in some instances, manifested his zeal in an indiscreet and intolerant manner. It is reported that Mr Hepburn collected all the Popish books that he could find in the parish, and burned them publicly on a hill, called Corse Hill, near the church; and tradition adds, that he made the most bigoted Papist in the parish blow the fire. It is more certain, however, that, in his zealous adherence to the Protestant succession to the Throne of Great Britain, he raised a volunteer corps in this and some neighbouring parishes, and marched at the head of it, for the purpose of assisting Government against the Popish rebels in the year 1715. The standard he then used is still in Urr manse. It is a large white flag, and upon it is emblazoned, in a kind of gilt coloured characters, "*For the Lord of Hosts.*" The drum which was used in his corps, was also long kept in the parish; but, about thirty years ago, it fell into a state of total decay.

From the presbytery records, it appears that Mr Hepburn died in March 1723.

The presbytery's records give a detailed account of many in the parish being attached to Mr Hepburn's peculiar views, and the difficulty the presbytery had to settle such a successor to Mr Hepburn, as might be ultimately satisfactory and profitable to all parties. They appointed Mr Patoun, one of their number, to request the Lord Advocate not to issue a presentation in favour of any one, but to allow the presbytery and parish of Urr to manage the matter for the edification of all, and this request seems to have been complied with.

Mr Christopher Wright succeeded Mr Hepburn, as minister in the parish of Urr, in October 1723. Mr Thomas M'Kinnel succeeded Mr Wright in 1736. Dr James Muirhead succeeded Mr M'Kinnel in 1770 or 1771. The celebrated oriental scholar, Dr Alexander Murray, afterwards Professor of Oriental Languages in the University of Edinburgh, was ordained assistant minister in this parish in 1806, and to be successor to Dr Muirhead, who died in 1808. John M'Whir succeeded Dr Murray in the year 1813.

*Registers.*—The ancient parochial registers and other session records of Urr are in a very imperfect, mutilated, and almost illegible condition. All the volumes to the year 1813 are more or

less in this condition. There is one volume from the year 1640 to 1660, another from 1701 to about 1712, another from 1736 to about 1769, and another from 1770 to 1813. From 1813 downwards, the session records have been kept with great accuracy.

*Buildings.*—The parish church of Urr was rebuilt in the year 1814, and may contain 775 sitters. The manse was built a few years before the church. There are several dissenting meeting-houses in the parish; and in the village of Dalbeattie, there is a Popish chapel which was built above thirty years ago.

*Land-owners.*—The land-owners of Urr are 84 in number, but the greater part of them are proprietors of comparatively small portions of the parish. The chief land-owners are at present, John Heron Maxwell, Esq. of Munshes; William Copland, Esq. of Colliston; John Sinclair, Esq. of Redcastle; William Maitland, Esq. of Achlane; William Stothert, Esq. of Cargen; William Young Herries, Esq. of Spottes; and John Hyndman, Esq. of Milton.

*Antiquities.*—Several motes and fortified camps are to be met with, both in Urr and the adjoining parishes of Buittle and Cross-michael. Tradition is silent as to the origin and use of these motes. The mote of Urr is perhaps the largest of the kind in Scotland. It stands on the west side of the river, about half a mile below the church.

Though the fossæ or ditches, and the general construction of Urr Mote are by no means Roman, yet about seventy years ago, some outworks remained, seemingly erected by that people. At Mill of Buittle, about a mile west from the Mote of Urr, there were found about sixty years ago, three small silver coins, one of Tiberius, one of Hadrian, and one of Commodus. On the estate of Mr Maxwell of Munshes, also, about two miles south-west of the mote, there were found several spears made of a very hard brass. Upon the estate of Edingham, in this parish, about three miles south-east from the Mote of Urr, there was found a tripod or three-footed pot of Roman construction, made of a very hard metal, which seems to be a composition of copper and tin. This vessel is in the possession of Mr Train of Castle Douglas. Other two vessels, nearly of the same form with the one just mentioned, were found a few years ago on the farm of Rickhorn, in this parish, at a considerable depth from the surface. There was also found in a peat moss (cut in the upper part in this parish,) a Roman javelin, which was presented to the late Sir Walter Scott, by Mr Train.

A very amusing account has been given respecting Robert de Bruce's gift of the mote referred to, to a woman named Sprotte. The story, called "King Bruce's Bowl," is related by Simon Sprotte. It was inserted in the Dumfries and Galloway Courier, 1st October 1822.

On the estate of Redcastle, and about a mile east from the Mote of Urr, there is a rude block of granite of considerable height, standing upright in a plain field, but tradition is silent as to the purpose of this erection.

Auchengibbert was the residence of the Buchanites, before they removed to Crocketford. The sect is now reduced to two individuals.

### III.—POPULATION.

The return to Dr Webster in 1755 was	1198
By the census of 1801,	1719
1811, . . . . .	2329
1821, . . . . .	2662
1831, . . . . .	3098
1841, . . . . .	3096

The villages of Dalbeattie and Springholm contain a population (a great proportion of which is Irish,) which the state of the surrounding country is unable to support by lawful industry. Hence poverty with its generally accompanying evils greatly prevails in these two villages.

### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—Agriculture, in this part of Scotland particularly, laboured long under great disadvantages, and, even after it began to improve, made very little progress for some time. About 150 years ago, some lands in this neighbourhood, which would now bring a rent upwards of L.200 Sterling per annum, were offered to any tenant who would pay the public burdens. From the year 1688 to the year 1740, agriculture seems to have improved very little. In the year 1760, shell-marl was discovered in Galloway; and the abundant crops at first produced by the use of this calcareous manure caused a general tillage of large tracts of land, which had been set apart for the purpose of grazing black-cattle. A spirit of industry began then to be diffused among the tenantry and labourers; but it was afterwards discovered, that marl manure was used too copiously, which brought the land into a state of consequent sterility. Honest industry was also greatly cramped by the vicinity of the Isle of Man, with which the inhabitants of Galloway carried on an extensive smuggling trade. But that island having become subject, about

the year 1760, to the revenue regulations of Great Britain, it is inconceivable how much the agriculture of every parish in the maritime parts of Galloway was thereby benefited. Marl has long gone into desuetude in Galloway, and the calcareous manure substituted in its place is that of lime imported from the coast of Cumberland, and of late bone-dust for turnip crop imported chiefly from Liverpool. A large quantity of grain is exported from this and adjacent parishes chiefly to Liverpool, and the farmers are both skilful and industrious.

Oats, barley, wheat, turnip, and potatoes are the chief agricultural produce of Urr. The annual rent of the parish is supposed to be about L. 16,000 Sterling.

*Live-Stock.*—Horses, black-cattle, sheep, and swine are in general the live-stock.

Sheep are fed in great numbers, especially of late years, upon the turnip crops, and the facilities now afforded of raising turnip by the recent use of bone manure, and of conveying fat sheep to Liverpool and other English markets, by means of steam-vessels, have greatly tended to increase the system of sheep feeding in this district of country. The rearing of pigs, and feeding them for the market, has long been carried on to a great extent in this country.

*Manufactories.*—There is a paper manufactory in the village of Dalbeattie, where there are falls of water very favourable to the operations of machinery. There are also corn, flax, and saw-mills in different parts of the parish.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The situation of the parish church is upon the whole pretty central; but the parish ought to be divided into two, with a church in each. The amount of stipend is at present 16 chalders, half oatmeal and half barley, paid in money according to the fiars' prices of the country, and L. 10 allowance for expenses attending the administration of the Lord's Supper. The glebe is about 12 acres of extent, and worth about L. 15 per annum.

*Education.*—The schools in this parish are at present eight in number, and in all of them the ordinary branches of education are more or less taught. Three of these are parochial schools,—one in the centre of the parish, with an average attendance of 80 scholars; another at Dalbeattie, with an attendance of 90 scholars; and another at Milton, having 50 scholars. The salary, *in toto*, is L. 51, 6s. 6d. Of this L. 22, 8s. 9d. goes to the teacher

of the central school, which was originally the parish school; about L.18 is allotted to the teacher of the school at Dalbeattie; and about L.11 is the appointed proportion of salary for the teacher of the school at Milton.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The number of paupers in the parish upon the regular poor's roll is 46; the number of those who receive occasional supply is 36. The regular poor receive at the rate of about L.1, 6s. per annum, the occasional poor about 16s. per annum. The rest of the expenditure goes to the support of orphans, salary for session-clerk, salary for church officer, &c. The funds for the poor chiefly consist of the interest of L.100 of mortified money left by the late Michael Herries, Esq. of Spottes, —a voluntary assessment from the heritors to the amount of L.56, and collections in the church to the amount of about L.40 per annum.

1843.

---

## PARISH OF RERRICK.\*

PRESBYTERY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT, SYNOD OF GALLOWAY.

THE REV. JAMES THOMSON, MINISTER.

---

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name, Extent, Boundaries, &c.*—THIS parish has borne, at different periods, the names of Dundrennan, Monkton, and Rerwick, or Rerrick. The first of these appellations is derived from the Irish words *Dun Drainan*, signifying the *Hill of Thorns*—while, according to Symson, whose account of Galloway was compiled in 1684, the parish was called Moukton, from the monks who dwelt in the Abbey of Dundrennan. Chalmers again, in his *Caledonia*, while he admits Rerrick to be a name of difficult etymology, considers it as an “abbreviated pronunciation of *Rerwick*, which was derived from a *wick*, or creek of Solway at this place.”† This can scarcely be considered a satisfactory account of the origin of

\* Communicated by a correspondent.

† Chalmers' *Caledonia*, vol. iii. p. 313.



the name of the parish, although it may be difficult to give any more plausible conjecture on the subject. The parish first obtained its present name towards the close of the seventeenth century, when a new church was erected upon the lands of Rerwick, forming part of the estate of Orroland, now the property of the infant son and heir of the late Robert Cutlar Fergusson, M. P. for the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright.

The parish of Rerrick is ten miles in length, and the average breadth is about six miles. It is bounded on the north by the parish of Kelton; on the east by the parish of Buittle and a Bay of Solway at the mouth of the water of Urr; on the south by the Solway; and on the west by the parish of Kirkcudbright.

The surface of Rerrick is generally broken and varied. Towards the north, it assumes a highland appearance, with a frontier of pretty considerable mountains, the most remarkable of which, both in height and picturesque character, is Bengairn. This mountain, covered with heath, and surmounted by a Cairn of almost Druidical antiquity, rises to a height of about 1200 feet above the level of the sea, and overlooks the Solway in all its length, commanding a view, which in variety, magnificence, and extent, is scarcely to be surpassed on the most romantic shores of Scotland. From the base of the hills on the north the parish trends towards the south and west, exhibiting as it approaches the sea a series of bold and lofty headlands, and terminating in an iron-bound coast, of which it is enough to say, that it furnished to the author of *Waverley* the materials for much of the scenery of *Ellangowan*. In the romance of *Guy Mannering*, the reader will find the shores of Rerrick delineated by the hand of a master.

The traveller who desires to visit this parish to advantage, should approach it from the village of Dalbeattie on the east. The road, after crossing the Water of Urr, and skirting the granite rocks of Kirkennan, approaches Orchardton, the seat of Colonel Maxwell, through the Holms of Glenyarrick. Few places in the south of Scotland are richer in natural beauty than this. It is situated upon a deeply indented bay of Solway, and surrounded on the east and west by the wooded promontories of Torr and Almorness. Towards the north, again, it is encompassed by an amphitheatre of hills, the most striking of which are Skreel and Bengairn. If the traveller has time, it will well repay his

trouble to witness from the summit of either of these mountains, the rising of the summer sun over Skiddaw and the Cumberland range. At such a moment, the broad and still waters of Solway, reflecting the dark and rocky shores of the Scottish coast, form a picture worthy the pencil of Claude.

After leaving Orchardton, the road passes for nearly two miles along the shore, fringed with extensive plantations, till it reaches the village of Auchencairn, situated at the head of the bay of that name. This is a thriving place, with much of an English character in its general aspect. The houses are of a superior description,—interspersed with trees,—built on no regular plan,—but exhibiting, as a whole, that cheerful and *riant* appearance for which the villages of the south are so remarkable. The neighbourhood is beautiful, commanding a full view of Orchardton, and comprehending the mountain scenery already described, with Collin, the pleasant residence of Mr Welsh, at the head of the bay. A little to the south of the village stands the old mansion of Auchencairn, long the abode of the family of Culton of Auchencairn; and two miles along the west side of the bay of Auchencairn is situated the modern mansion of Nutwood, built by the late Major Culton, with its policy overhanging the water. Still farther down, upon the very margin of the bay, stands Balcary, the beautiful residence of Mrs Gordon, widow of the late Mr Gordon of Culvennan. The green isle of Heston forms a fine feature in the mouth of the bay, and, as it were, landlocks it, giving to the whole much of the character of lake scenery. Outside the bay again, the shores of Rerrick, towards the west, and along the *Heughs* of Rascarrel, Barlocco, Orroland, Portmary, and Netherlaw, present the boldest and most sublime features of coast scenery. Two caverns upon the Barlocco shore, called the White and Black Cove, are particularly worthy of notice. The entrance to the former is as lofty as the mast of *some great Admiral*, and its vast extent reminds the spectator of the airy and echoing halls of Fingal in Staffa. The Black Cove is of an opposite and gloomy character, and its dark caverns would form no unfit habitation for the Spirit of the Solway.

For five miles to the west of Auchencairn, the road passes along comparatively an uninteresting ridge of the parish, still, however, commanding fine views of the Solway and the English coast, till at length it opens upon the beautiful and secluded valley of

Dundrennan, with the village and ruined Abbey in the foreground.

It is impossible to tread this classic spot, without carrying back our recollections to the period when the Abbey of Dundrennan afforded a temporary shelter to the unfortunate Mary Stuart, during the last hours she spent in Scotland. Tradition has traced, probably with more of fancy than of accuracy, her course from Langside to the scene of her embarkation for England. It has been hitherto supposed that, passing through the wildest recesses of the Glenkens, she reached Queenshill, so named from her resting sometime there, and now the seat of Mr Campbell, at the head of the Vale of the Tarf. Proceeding in the direction of Tongland, she is said to have crossed the Dee by an ancient wooden bridge, which then spanned the river about a mile above that place. But this traditionary account of the Queen's progress from Langside to Dundrennan has been recently discredited by the publication of Historical Memoirs of her reign by Lord Herries, the companion of her flight. His account bears, that "so soone as the Queen saw the day lost, she was carried from the field by the Lords Herries, Fleming, and Livistoune. Prettie George Douglas and William the Fundlin escapt also with the Queen. She rode all night, and did not halt until she came to the Sanquhir. From thence she went to Terregles, the Lord Herries' hous, where she rested some few dayes, and then, against her friends' advyce, she resolved to goe to England and commit herselfe to the protection of Queen Elizabeth; in hopes, by her assistance, to be repossessed again in her kingdome. So she embarked at a creek near Dundrennen, in Galloway, and carried the Lord Herries to attend her with his counsel, and landed at Cockermouth in Cumberland. Heer she stayed, and sent the Lord Herries to Londone in hopes to be received with honor."\*

Mary arrived at Dundrennan in the evening, and spent her last night in Scotland beneath the walls of the Monastery, then a magnificent and extensive building, and of which Edward Maxwell, a near relative of Lord Herries, was at the time Abbot. The situation of Dundrennan Abbey has much natural beauty, independent of historical associations, to recommend it to the attention of the traveller. The building is now greatly dilapidated; but

\* Historical Memoirs of the Reign of Mary Queen of Scots, by Lord Herries. Edinburgh, 1836, p. 103.

enough still remains to indicate its former splendour. It is almost entirely covered with a pale gray-coloured moss, which gives a character of peculiar and airy lightness to the lofty columns and Gothic arches, many of which are entire. Placed upon a gentle eminence, on the bank of a rocky and sparkling burn, and surrounded on all sides, except the south, by a range of hills, Dundrennan forms an exception to the usual aspect of abbey scenery. There is little old wood near it, save in the deep and devious glens which intersect the adjacent grounds of Mr Maitland of Dundrennan; but the neighbouring *braes* are generally clothed with copse, and afford from many points extensive views of the Solway, and of the mountains of Cumberland.

From Newlaw hill, an eminence adjoining the residence of Mr Maitland, and forming part of the *Hill of Thorns*, from which the place takes its name, the prospect is still more magnificent, commanding, in addition to an almost boundless expanse of ocean, a view of the Isle of Man, and of the mountains of Morne in Ireland. It is not uncommon from this spot, as noticed in the original Statistical Account of the parish, to have upwards of a hundred vessels in sight at one time, between St Bee's Head and the Mull of Galloway, which, from a well-known optical deception, seem elevated one above another, according to their distance, till the most remote appears as if actually dropping from the clouds; so that, in a certain state of the atmosphere, the ocean resembles an immense canvass suspended from the heavens, with an infinite variety of vessels pictured upon it. But *sentiment*, no doubt, gives to Dundrennan its principal charm. These broken arches and tottering columns—these deserted cells and weed-grown aisles—these neglected monuments of belted knights and mitred abbots—and this wide scene of ruin and desolation, melancholy and silent though they be, are all invested with an inexpressible charm, as far superior to that imparted by mere fine scenery, as the pleasures of mind are to those of sense.

For nearly forty years, the late Adam Maitland, Esq. of Dundrennan was the principal resident heritor in the parish of Rerrick; and during this long period, it may be truly said that, within his sphere as a country gentleman, his life was devoted to objects of public usefulness and private benevolence. He turned his most zealous attention to every subject connected with rural economy; and the result of this may now be seen in the admirable roads and

bridges, in the extensive plantations, and in the improved agriculture of the district over which his influence and his estates extended. His important position as Convener of the Stewartry enabled him to give efficient support to every measure of general utility, guided, as all his objects were, by enlarged and liberal views on economical and political subjects. About twenty years ago, Mr Maitland transferred his residence to his estate of Compstone on the banks of the Tarf, but he still continued to take a lively interest in the parish of Rerrick; and during years of declining health, when he had unavoidably in a great measure withdrawn from public life and active exertion of every sort, he still devoted himself anxiously to the work of doing good, by combining the improvements on his estate in Rerrick with the employment of the poor. Shortly before Mr Maitland's death, which took place at Compstone on the 20th of July 1843, he had removed the old mansion of Dundrennan, and erected a shooting-lodge on the site of it.

Nevertheless, it is indisputable that Rerrick suffers from the non-residence of so many heritors, and it is impossible not to look back, with somewhat of a feeling of regret, to the good old times when the hospitable homes of Collin and Dundrennan, of Orroland and Portmary, were occupied by their respective proprietors, and when, of course, the interests of the tenantry and the poor formed the subject of active and personal superintendence. Many of the principal estates in the parish are now occupied and managed as *led* farms for grazing, and with less of agricultural spirit and stir than we should have seen, had it so happened that we could have numbered not only among the *proprietors*, but among the *inhabitants* of the parish, Sir Robert Abercromby of Birkenbog, Mr Murray of Broughton, M. P. for the Stewartry, Mr Maitland of Dundrennan, late Solicitor-General for Scotland, and Mr Welsh of Collin.

The village at the Abbey consists chiefly of feus upon the estates of Dundrennan and Orroland. The houses are pleasantly interspersed with fine old trees, and combine admirably with the precincts of the Abbey. From Dundrennan to the sea the distance is about a mile and a half. The road runs through a narrow valley, and passing Netherlaw, the seat of Sir Robert Abercromby, leads directly to the shore, where the rock is still pointed out by the peasantry from which the hapless Mary embarked on her ill-

fated voyage to England. It is situated in a little creek, surrounded by vast and precipitous cliffs, and called Portmary in remembrance of the Queen. The scene is appropriately wild and sublime; and the contemplative stranger who visits it in the stillness of evening is apt to imagine that the waves fall here with a more mournful dash upon the shore, and that the cadence of the autumn wind is more low and melancholy than elsewhere, as if Nature's self were conscious of, and lamented the unhappy event she had seen take place upon the spot.\*

The residence of Portmary is immediately contiguous to the sea. This estate is entailed, and is now the property of Mr James Lenox of New-York, the only son and heir of a native of Kirkcudbright who migrated to America upwards of sixty years ago, and who recently died one of the richest men, and most eminent merchants in the United States. Along the coast of Solway to the east, lies the estate and ancient mansion of Orroland. The late Mr Cutlar Fergusson, Member of Parliament for the Stewartry, succeeded to this estate about thirty-five years ago, while still prosecuting his professional pursuits in India. His brother, Mr Henry Fergusson, soon after removed from Craighdarroch,—the family residence in Dumfriesshire—to Orroland, where he commenced an extensive system of improvement—modernising the mansion-house—rebuilding the farm-steadings—draining and renewing the fences—laying down extensive plantations in the most tasteful manner—and thereby giving a new character to this side of the parish. Still farther east we have Barlocco, the curious residence of Mr Macartney, hanging over the Solway, and Ras-carrel, the property of Mr Vans Agnew of Sheuchan, also contiguous to the shore. This brings us again to the Bay of Auchencairn.

To return to the valley of Dundrennan. From this point westward the parish of Rerrick assumes a pastoral character, till it terminates in the farm of Castlecreavie, forming the western extremity of the estate of Dundrennan, which abounds in Roman antiquities, and the higher grounds of which look down upon the delicious scenery of St Mary's Isle and the Bay of Kirkcudbright. To the east of Castlecreavie lies Auchengool, the property of John

\* The substance of some of the preceding observations was furnished some time since by the compiler of the present article to the "Picture of Scotland;" but, in so far as they have been repeated here, it is by permission of the very liberal publishers of that work.

Ramsay M'Culloch, Esq., the most distinguished political Economist and Statist of the day. From this point to the base of Bengairn, the surface of the parish is of a wild and upland description, the greater part of it belonging to Mr Murray of Broughton. This seems enough in the way of a general description and survey of the parish.

*Mineralogy.*—There is much in the parish of Rerrick deserving the attention of the mineralogist and natural philosopher. The range of hills, of which Bengairn is the summit, affords fine examples of the granite formation, while the coast everywhere abounds with freestone of excellent quality, which has of late been much in request for building purposes. Upon the shore, in the immediate vicinity of Portmary, there is a remarkable natural arch of *Barytes* or *Terra Ponderosa*, which, from its resemblance to a person in a state of suspension, has long borne the name of *the Hangit Man*. Some of the highest headlands in the parish, and particularly those in the vicinity of the White and Black Coves of Barlocco, are composed of puddingstone, resting upon extensive beds of very hard freestone. In the Coves fine specimens may be occasionally obtained of jasper which takes a high polish, and rock-crystals of a pale purple colour and of the most perfect prismatic forms, abound in a small stream upon the hill of Screel, within the estate of Colonel Maxwell of Orchardton.

In the lands of Auchenleek, in the eastern district of the parish, formerly belonging to Lord Macartney, and now the property of Mr Henry, an iron mine has been opened under the management of an English company. From fifty to seventy tons of ore of superior quality are obtained weekly, and it is sent chiefly to Birmingham and the neighbourhood. A mine of copper ore has also for some time been wrought in the Island of Heston, at the mouth of the Bay of Auchencairn. It is at present let on lease to an English tenant, and the ore is shipped to Swansea.

*Ports.*—The facilities for shipping produce from Rerrick are considerable; and three places on the coast have been declared free ports,—Balcarry, on Auchencairn Bay, Burnfoot, at the point where the Abbey burn enters the Solway, and Mulloch Bay, at the south-western extremity of the parish. The first of these is safe and commodious by nature, and the other two ports might be made so at a very inconsiderable expense.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Parochial Registers*—The register for births and marriages at Rerrick commences 22d December 1736, and the minutes of the kirk session of the parish 18th December 1751. The former has been very correctly kept since 1806, but very irregularly previous to that period.

*Antiquities*.—Besides the ancient Cairn on the summit of Bengairn, already mentioned, the traces of two Druidical temples, and of no less than twelve camps, Saxon, Danish, and Roman, are extant in the parish. But beyond all question, the most remarkable and interesting remain of antiquity in Rerrick, is the Abbey of Dundrennan. Its situation, *in valle reducta*, has been already described, and it only remains to give some slight notices of its foundation and history.

The reign of David I. has been truly described as “the great age of religious establishments” in Scotland. Fergus, Lord of Galloway, who was by marriage allied to the throne, emulated royalty in the “munificence of his foundations,”\* one of the most remarkable of which was Dundrennan. He founded this Abbey in 1142, and filled it with Cistercian monks from the Abbey of Rievall, in England. Sylvanus was the first Abbot of Dundrennan. He was transferred to Rievall in 1167, and, according to Spottiswood, he died at Belleland in 1189; but Cardonnel assigns the previous year, 1188, as the time, and Dundrennan as the place of his death. Those who are curious in such matters may be referred to Cardonnel’s *Antiquities of Scotland* for a list of the successors of Sylvanus, the last of whom was Edward Maxwell, son to John Lord Herries, after whose death King James Sixth annexed the Abbey of Dundrennan to his Royal Chapel of Stirling. This annexation took place in 1621, and was ratified by Parliament in that year, and again in 1633. Symson, writing in 1684, says, “The Bishop of Dunblaine, as Deane of the Chapel-Royal, is patron of the parish of Rerrick, or Dundranen, and hath a part of his revenue paid out of the lands of that Abbacy; he hath also a bailerie here, heritable exerc’d by the Earl of Nithisdale, whose jurisdiction reacheth over the whole parish, except one baronrie called Kirkcastel, belonging to the Laird of Broughton.”†

\* Caledonia, Vol. iii. p. 301.

† Symson’s Description of Galloway, p. 15.



The historical notices of the Abbey are generally extremely meagre. The *Chronicle of Melrose*, the compilation of which has been frequently but erroneously ascribed to an Abbot of Dundrennan,\* contains only this slight mention of the Abbey:—"Anno M.C.XLII. fundata est Abbatia De Dundraynan in Gallowaya." Nor does Dempster's *Apparatus* give much additional information. "DUNDRAN in Galweia. Fundat Cisteriensi ordini S. David, Rex. Hect. Boeth, Lib. XII. Historiæ Scoticæ, pag. CCLXXIV; ex hoc S. Richardus Sacrista fuit, et Thomas Abbas Pontificis elector Concilio Constantinensi MCCCXXXIX, qui Donduno male ab Onufrio dicitur apud Joannem Gualterium Chron. Chronicorum, Demochares a *Dundraina* vocat."† Spotiswood is equally short and unsatisfactory in his account of Dundrennan;‡ but, according to the better authorities, he gives the honour of founding the Abbey, not to King David, but to his noble kinsman, the Lord of Galloway. Sir Robert Sibbald, in his *Manuscript Collections*, preserved in the Advocates' Library at Edinburgh, describes Dundrennan merely as a *large Abbey*, in the parish of Rerrick, "wherein the wisard, Michael Scott, lived."§ For this tradition, however, we are aware of no other or better authority.

Although the building has suffered much from the devouring hand of time, and not a little from dilapidation, for the purposes of building cottages in the neighbourhood, the remains are still very considerable, and the original form and extent of the Abbey admits of being easily traced. The church of the monastery was in the form of a cross, with a central spire, which tradition represents to have been 200 feet high. The body of the building was 120 feet in length, and divided into three aisles, by seven clustered columns, supporting arches entering to the side aisles, of great height and beauty. The breadth of each of the side aisles was about 15 feet, and that of the centre aisle 25 feet. The transept measured 120 feet from north to south, and 46 feet from east to west.

The east end of the church was of the same breadth with the middle aisle, and only 35 feet in length. On the south side of

\* Vide Mr Stevenson's Preface to the Edition of *Chronica de Melros*, printed for the Bannatyne Club, *passim*.

† *Dempsteri Apparatus*, lib. i, cap. 15.

‡ *Religious Houses in Scotland*, chap. ix. § 3.

§ Sibbald MSS., *Adv. Lib.*, W. 5, 17.

the church were the cloisters, containing a square area of 94 feet. Still farther south were the lodgings and different offices of the Monastery, occupying a space of nearly 300 feet square. At the south end, again, of the western side of these buildings, was a small projecting erection in the shape of a cross, and very similar to the church but inverted—those portions which fronted the east in the one facing the west in the other.

There are still some ancient and curious monuments to be found at Dundrennan. Of these, the most remarkable is the tomb of Alan Lord of Galloway, surnamed the Great Constable of Scotland, who was buried within the walls of the Abbey in the year 1233. His mutilated figure is rudely represented in *alto relievo*, cross-legged, and in mail armour, with a buff coat above, a belt across the shoulder, and another round the waist. In the neighbourhood this figure is generally known by the name of *The Belted Knight*. There is also a tombstone bearing the figure of an Abbot in his canonicals, in tolerable preservation; but the inscription upon it is so much decayed as to be illegible.

Although the Abbey of Dundrennan was indisputably annexed to the Crown in 1621, it was long matter of doubt whether it had not been included in some of the later Crown charters under which the lands and barony of Dundrennan have been long held by the family to which they now belong. This point, however, was set at rest by the late Mr Maitland of Dundrennan, who some years ago presented a memorial to the Commissioners of Woods and Forests, representing strongly the constant dilapidation to which the ruins were exposed, and proposing to abandon all right of property in the Abbey, provided it should be placed under the permanent management and protection of the Crown. After due consideration, this proposition was acceded to; and Mr Nixon, the Master of Works for the Board in Scotland, was authorized and directed to examine and report upon the state of the ruins. The result of this inquiry has been an extensive reparation of the Abbey, and the enclosure of the building, along with the contiguous burying-ground, within a high stone wall. The accumulated *debris* of the ruins has been entirely removed, the pavement and precincts of the Abbey restored to their original level, and the ancient monuments and many curious fragments of the building cleared and most tastefully disposed—the

whole exhibiting one of the most beautiful specimens of monastic antiquity now existing in Scotland. Mr Andrew Carter, schoolmaster at Dundrennan, has been recently appointed Keeper of the Abbey, with an annual salary of L.5.

The chartulary of Dundrennan does not appear to be extant; but one or two charters, granted by the Abbots of this Abbey, are preserved in the Chapter-house at Westminster, with seals, in a state of very perfect preservation.

*Principal Land-owners.*—These, with their respective valuations, are,—

Sir Robert Abercromby, Bart. of Birkenbog,	-	L.1051	0	0
Alexander Murray of Broughton,	-	820	0	0
Thomas Maitland of Dundrennan,	-	740	0	0
Robert Cutlar Fergusson of Orroland, a minor,	-	603	0	0
Colonel Maxwell of Orcharnton,	-	347	0	0
Miss Culton of Auchnabony,	-	291	10	0
Lady Catherine Halket of Balig,	-	247	0	0
David Welsh of Collin,	-	192	13	4
Trustees of David Halliday of Mulloch,	-	185	0	0
Sir Graham Montgomery, Bart. of Stanhope,	-	168	0	0
Patrick Vans Agnew of Sheuchan,	-	160	0	0
William Cairns of Torr,	-	150	0	0
Mrs Gordon of Balcarray,	-	140	0	0
James Lenox of Port Mary,	-	130	0	0
John Ramsay M'Culloch of Auchengool,	-	115	0	0
Alexander M'Cartney of Barlocco,	-	110	0	0
Earl of Selkirk,	-	93	6	8
James Thomson of Over Haslefield,	-	90	0	0
Robert Cunningham of Nether Linkens,	-	60	0	0
John Carter of Castlehill,	-	50	0	0
David and Joseph Kissock of Balmangan,	-	50	0	0
George and Thomas Henderson of Park,	-	40	0	0
James Henry of Auchenleek,	-	35	0	0
William Affleck of Upper Linkens,	-	35	0	0
William C. Hamilton Bluehill,	-	30	0	0
Margaret Kissock of Thorn,	-	13	5	0
Margaret Tait of Craigmullen,	-	13	5	0
		Total L.5960 0 0		

*Principal Seats.*—Orcharnton, Dundrennan, Orroland, Netherlaw, Balcarray, Collin, Nutwood, and Port Mary. Late in the seventeenth century, when Sir Robert Sibbald compiled his *Description of Scotland*, the *considerable houses* of the parish of Rerrick are said to have been, “Duadrainnan Abbay, Barlocco, Glenshinnock, Orchartoun, and Colnachtyr.”\* Glenshinnoch is generally understood to have been the ancient name of Orcharnton, while Colnachtyr, under the more modern appellation of Conaightry, is now an outlying farm upon the estate of Mr Murray of Broughton.

\* Sibbald MSS. *Adv. Lib.*, Jac. v., i. 4.

## III.—POPULATION.

Although population is generally stationary in parishes so purely agricultural and pastoral as Rerrick, there appears to have been a gradual and progressive increase in the number of inhabitants during the last half century. The return to Dr Webster in 1775 was only 1051; and it is stated in the former Statistical Account, published in 1794, that the population of the parish was then nearly the same. But the more recent Parliamentary returns exhibit the following results:—

In 1801, the population was	1166
1811, . . . . .	1224
1821, . . . . .	1378
1831, . . . . .	1635
1841, . . . . .	1692

As to the general character of the inhabitants of the parish it seems sufficient to repeat the kindly language of their late minister, who knew them well. "The people here," says Mr Thomson in the former Statistical Account, "are peaceable, humane, and hospitable, have a lively sense of decorum and character, and many of them give indubitable proofs that their minds are deeply imbued with rational piety." This was the character of the people of Rerrick in 1794, and at the distance of half a century, they have in no respect forfeited their claim to it.

## IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—The parish of Rerrick contains about 20,447 acres, standard imperial measure. Of these, 13,088 acres have been at one time or other under cultivation, while 6798 acres have never been cultivated, or otherwise used than as pasture. The remaining 561 acres are under wood, natural or planted. Of late years *agriculture*, properly so called, has not been extending in the parish; and, on the contrary, many of the finest farms have been laid down in permanent grass. In this way, *black cattle* may be considered as truly the staple commodity of the district, by which the farmer pays his rent and makes his livelihood.

*Rent of Land.*—The real rent of the parish somewhat exceeds L.10,000 a year. In the poorer districts, the average rent of the Scotch acre runs from 15s. to 25s., but the rich old grazings of Dundrennan and Netherlaw yield a much higher rent. There are three corn mills in the parish, which appear to be amply sufficient for the purposes of the farmer.

*Fishings.*—Some years ago, a stake-net salmon fishing was established on the west side of the Bay of Auchencairn, by the proprietors of Balcarry and Nutwood. It has been reasonably successful, yielding a steady and increasing rent. More recently, Mr Lenox of Port Mary has let the right of salmon fishing on the shores near to Burnfoot. The take of salmon here has not hitherto been great; but the fish are of the finest quality.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Villages.*—There are two villages in the parish, which have been already described,—the one at the head of the Bay of Auchencairn, and the other in the immediate vicinity of Dundrennan Abbey. There are three licensed public-houses in Auchencairn, and two at Dundrennan, which are well kept and regulated.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The greater proportion of the inhabitants of the parish belong to the Established Church, although there is a most respectable congregation of the Free Church at Auchencairn, under the ministry of the Rev. Mr Murray. The patronage of the parish belongs to the Crown; and it is a remarkable fact, that there have only been four incumbents of Rerrick since the Revolution. The first of these was the Rev. Mr Alexander Telfair, who is now chiefly known as the author of a very curious tract, printed at Edinburgh in 1696, under the following title:—*A True Relation of an Apparition, Expressions and Actings of a Spirit, which infested the house of Andrew Mackie, in Ring-croft of Stocking in the Paroch of Rerrick, in the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright, in Scotland, 1695.* It presents a curious picture of the times, that the truth of the details of supernatural agency contained in this relation “*is attested, as what they saw, heard, and felt*” by the ministers of Kells, Borgue, Crossmichael, Parton, and Kelton, and by several of the most respectable parishioners of Rerrick. Mr Telfair was succeeded, as minister of this parish, by Mr William Jameson, author of an ingenious *Essay on Virtue and Harmony*, published in 1749, and which indicates great metaphysical acuteness on the part of the writer. Mr Jameson died in 1790, and was succeeded by the late Mr James Thomson. In 1818, his son, the present incumbent, was appointed helper and successor to his father, who closed a long life of usefulness and respectability as a parish minister in 1826.

The stipend of Rerrick amounts to 16 chalders, of which L.16 is payable in money. The glebe extends to 16 imperial acres, and may be worth about L.40 per annum. The manse was built in 1790. An addition was made to it in 1811, and in the present year 1844, the heritors have again put it into a state of complete repair, and have erected a new steading of offices upon a convenient site. The manse is in a beautiful situation, immediately contiguous to the ruins of the abbey of Dundrennan, while the parish church is rather inconveniently situated more than a mile to the eastward on the road to Orroland.

*Education.*—There are two parochial schools in the parish, one at the village of Dundrennan, and the other at the village of Auchencairn. These schools are sufficient for the reception of the whole children in the parish, with the exception of those resident in a small district to the west of Bengairn, which, however, is fortunately within two miles of one of the parish schools of Kelton. The schoolmaster at Dundrennan has a salary of L.30, and the schoolmaster at Auchencairn a salary of L.21, 6s. 8d. per annum. Each of the schoolmasters has a free dwelling-house, and the average amount of annual fees in each school may be stated at L.70.

*Savings Banks.*—There is one in the parish. The average sum annually invested in it during the last three years has been L.169, and the average sum annually withdrawn L.62.

*Poor.*—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid is 34, and the average weekly sum allotted to each individual is 1s. 1½d. The average annual amount of contributions for the relief of the poor has been for some time past L.99, 5s., of which L.49, 5s. is obtained from collections at the church door,—L.45 is voluntarily contributed by the heritors,—and L.5 is drawn from legacies and mortifications. There has not hitherto been any legal assessment for providing for the poor in Rerrick, although it is not improbable this may become necessary in consequence of the recent investigations by the Poor Law Commissioners.

*July 1844.*

## PARISH OF DALRY.

PRESBYTERY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT, SYNOD OF GAELDWAY.

THE REV. GEORGE PATERSON, MINISTER.

---

### L.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

THIS parish and those of Kells, Balmaclellan, and Carsphairn, are supposed to have been anciently united.

*Name.*—The name is derived from Gaelic words signifying a Royal Vale,—the land being hilly on the north and east, and becoming beautifully level on the left bank of the Ken, and terminating in ground called the Holm of Dalry.

*Extent, &c.*—From north to south, the parish is about 15 miles long, and, from east to west, about 7 broad. It is bounded on the west by Carsphairn and Kells; on the south, by Balmaclellan and Kells; on the east, by Glencairn, in the county of Dumfries; on the north, by New Cumnock in Ayrshire. It contains 26,172 Scottish, or 32,902 English acres.

*Plantations, Rivers, &c.*—Along the Ken, which is the boundary between this parish and Kells on the west for six miles or more, there are oak trees of considerable size, besides a variety of other species of trees in belts and ornamental clumps. The principal river is the Ken, which takes its rise near the northern extremity of the parish, and, running south-west eight or nine miles, separates Dalry from Carsphairn, till it is joined by the Deugh. There, taking a new direction, it runs almost south, till it meets with a rivulet in Kells, called Palharrow. Thence it runs nearly south-east through rugged rocks, with many beautiful windings, till it meets with the Garpel, (a rivulet which, for a considerable way, is the boundary between this parish and Balmaclellan.) From Bridge of Ken to Bridge of Allan-Gibbon, its bed is rock, and in some places of great depth from the top of the banks. The Blackwater, and the rivulets of Earlston, Stronfreggan, and Loch-invar burn in the parish, are tributaries to the Ken; they all abound in trout, and salmon is frequently caught in the Ken after speats,

KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

A A

and opening of the "*Satterdaies Slop*" in the cruives near Kirkcudbright, where the Ken, after its junction with the Dee, falls into the sea. The lakes or lochs in the parish contain excellent trout, and are much resorted to by fishers. Those of Troston, Knocksting, Regland, Ardoch, and Knockman, are small, but that of Lochinvar is of considerable extent, scarce less than three miles in circuit, and containing an area of 50 acres.

*Geology.*—Hard granite or whinstone rock abounds throughout the parish; which is rarely wrought, from the requisite quantity of stone being found in loose and detached blocks on the surface of the moor or heath land, and commonly called heathens. In the Hill of Barlae, near the public road, between St John's of Dalry and Bridge of Ken, a slate-quarry, producing blue slate of durable quality, and large dimensions, has been wrought for some years.

*Zoology.*—Most of the common descriptions of small birds are to be found. Red grouse, blackcock and grey-hen, partridges, snipes, pheasants, and hares are in considerable numbers.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Antiquities, &c.*—In Lochinvar are to be seen the remains of an old building with bridges, said to have been a castle belonging to the Gordons, anciently knights of Lochinvar, and now Viscount of Kenmure and Lord of Lochinvar by restoration in 1824 to the titles forfeited in 1716. Not much above a mile from this loch, there is a large pile of stones covered with a whitish moss, from which it has probably got the name of the White Cairn. At a short distance from this, is another of smaller size, which is supposed to be a monument or trophy of an heroic achievement performed by the first Knight of Lochinvar, who on that very spot had the good fortune to kill a wild boar which infested that part of the country. Near the church of Dalry, and just at the brink of the Ken, there is one of those eminences called moats, which is still almost entire, and appears to great advantage from the Kells side of the river. From this moat a fine view of the river is obtained, and of the landscapes on each side of it. There is another moat in Lochrenny, on the border of the parish, but it is not conspicuous, as it stands on low ground. In the churchyard, which has been recently enclosed by a substantial stone and lime wall, there is an aisle of the old church, now quite detached from the new, which is the burial place of Viscount Kenmure. There is also a square piece of ground inclosed, with a blackish wall



about seven feet high, with a bowl supported by a standard at each corner, which is the burying place of the Newalls of Barskeoch. In the farm of Stronfreggan, there is a large cairn, near to which, in a rivulet that runs by it, are two large stones, somewhat resembling human figures: one of them is about ten feet long and quite entire; the other is a little mutilated. In the farm of Altrye, near the top of a hill, there is a trench which seems to have been dug, capable of containing about 100 people. A person concealed in this trench can see to a considerable distance, without being observed; and the Whigs or Cameronians, as they are usually styled, are said to have frequently made use of it during the time of the persecution in Scotland, both as a place of refuge and of observation. Hence it obtained the name of the Whig Hole, which it bears to this day. At Benbreck and Manquhill, two contiguous farms, are the remains of buildings, which are said to have been the residence of an ancient branch of the noble family of Galloway.

At Earlston there are the remains of a stately residence, in the form of a lofty square tower, which has its compeers in many parts of the country, and bears date over the door 1655, with the initials "W. G. and. M. H.;" supposed to be those of a former proprietor of name Gordon. With some repair and expense it might be made inhabitable, a strong oaken roof being in good repair. It is situated near the river Ken, and surrounded by a lawn and extensive plantation of oak trees. "Earlston Linn" is an object of curiosity, and the water of the Ken falling over the rocks and then boiling up in the deep pools beneath, is heard at a distance. It is a barrier to the ascent of the salmon, large numbers falling an easy prey to fishermen with bag-nets.

*Modern Buildings.*—The church and manse are situated within a mile of the southern boundary, and contiguous is a village, commonly known by the name of the Clachan, though its proper name is St John's Town of Dalry: from its modernized appearance, with its white-washed and slated houses, and neat gardens, it is entitled more to the latter than the former appellation. Here the inhabitants are numerous compared with the rural population. The accommodation afforded to travellers is but limited. There is a post office, and coaches pass through the village daily, between Ayr and Kirkcudbright. The licensed public houses in the village are six in number.

*Proprietors, &c.*—The ancient valuation of the parish is £.7137,

6s. 8d. Scots, and the real rent, L.5682, 18s. Sterling. The proprietors are, William Forbes of Callendar, Esq.; — Oswald, Esq. of Auchencruive; John Eden Spalding, Esq. of Holme; John Shaw Alexander, Esq. of M'Kilstoun; J. Kennedy, Esq. of Knockknalling; John M'Turk, Esq. Knocksting; the Duke of Buccleuch; Lord Glenlee; and the successor of Mr Watt, Kenbank.

### III.—POPULATION.

Amount of population in 1801,	-	892
1811,	-	1061
1821,	-	1151
1831,	-	1246
1841,	-	1215

### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—The crops chiefly grown are barley, oats, turnips, potatoes, and some rye. In proportion to the extent of the parish, which is pastoral, the cultivated land is small, though increasing. Surface drains are made to a considerable extent, and are found to benefit the pasture, and where drains are put in meadows the hay is improved as well as increased. Limeworks are from twenty to thirty miles distant. The roads are now generally improved and much extended throughout the parish. Breeding and rearing sheep and black-cattle are chiefly attended to, but there is little or no feeding to fat. The fences are all made of stone, and dikers and road-makers are numerous. The farm-houses have been generally renewed of late years, and chiefly slated. The climate is salubrious and snow soon disappears from the hills.

*Fuel.*—There are no coal works, nor has coal been discovered in the parish. It is carted from the Dalmellington coal pits, from fifteen to twenty miles distant. Peat is a common article of fuel in the parish, but the mosses of the best quality are nearly exhausted.

### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The stipend is fifteen chalders, meal and barley in equal halves, L.9, 7s. 10d. money out of the teinds of the parish of Carsphairn, and L.8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements. Extent of the glebe, 13 acres. The manse was rebuilt in 1828, at the cost of upwards of L. 1000, and in 1831 the church was also rebuilt, at an expense of about L.1400 Sterling. Six hundred of the population are attached to the Established Church, and about 110 to the Dissenters.

The Rev. Alexander M'Gowan was minister of the parish for the period of 43 years, and died at the age of 81 in 1826. He

was succeeded by the Rev. William Anderson, who died 29th December 1835, and his successor is the present incumbent.

*Education.*—The parochial school salary is the maximum, L.51, 6s. 6d., divided between two teachers, one at Smeaton Bridge and another at Corseglass, with school-rooms and other apartments in houses recently built for them. The number of scholars at Smeaton Bridge is 30, and at Corseglass 12. There is another school, viz. the Dalry Free Grammar School, erected in 1658, for educating poor scholars for the university. It is attended by about 120 pupils. The endowment consists of the interest of a mortified sum of L.970, 17s. 6d., ten acres of land, and a dwelling-house and school-room. School fees in certain cases are paid by the pupils at the first two, at the rate of 2s. per quarter, but none at the Free School.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The average number of poor of all classes is 50. Average yearly amount of church collections for their behoof, L.11; of mortcloth dues, &c. L. 1, 3s.; of assessment, L.210.

September 1844.

## PARISH OF ANWOTH.

PRESBYTERY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT, SYNOD OF GALLOWAY.

THE REV. THOMAS JOHNSTONE, MINISTER.\*

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THE word Anwoth (anciently written Avonwaith) means *the course or channel of the river*. The term Avon, the original name of the Fleet, which bounds the parish on the east, was changed by the Anglo-Saxons (who, for four centuries previously to 840, held possession of Galloway,) into Fleet, a name of synonymous import. (*Caledonia*, vol. iii. p. 339.)

*Boundaries, Extent.*—Anwoth is bounded on the south by Wigton and Fleet bays; on the east, by the parish of Girthon, from which it is separated by the river Fleet; and on the north and

\* Contributed by Dr Thomas Murray, author of "The Literary History of Galloway," "Life of Samuel Rutherford," &c.

west by the parish of Kirkmabreck. It is about six and a-half miles long from north-east to south-west, and three and a-half broad from east to west. The number of acres in the parish, according to Ainslie's map of the Stewartry, is 9023. The ancient parish of Kirkdale, which lay between those of Anwoth and Kirkmabreck, was suppressed in 1635, and apportioned between these two parishes, Kirkmabreck receiving the larger share.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The sea-board is generally flat, with the exception of one place on the south at Kirkclauch; but though often rocky, it has no bold headlands. In the interior of the parish, the surface is uneven, broken, and hilly. The most remarkable hill is Cairnharrow, lying partly in Anwoth and partly in Kirkmabreck, the height of which is 1100 feet. The soil on it is of a mossy kind, covered with heath intermixed with grass, and not much encumbered with rock. Cairnharrow is the highest eminence within twenty miles, with the exception of Cairnsmore in the parish of Minnigaff; and its summit commands one of the most interesting and extensive views imaginable,—not merely the adjacent country and bays of Wigton and Fleet, but the Isle of Man, part of Cumberland, and the high land on the coast of Ireland. There are two natural caves in the parish, one on the farm of Kirkclauch, the other on that of Auchenlarie, both on the sea shore, but neither of them of great extent.

*Climate.*—The parish may be regarded as salubrious; but, while the air is mild and balmy on the sea coast, it is comparatively chilly and sharp on the west and north; and snow remains on the tops of the hills, while it is unknown throughout the other portions of the parish.

*Hydrography.*—Of the river Fleet, which bounds the parish on the east, a description has been already given under the article Girthon. The only other stream in Anwoth is Skyreburn (a Saxon term signifying *clear burn*,) which rises in the farm of Arkland, and, after a course of about four miles, falls into the bay of Fleet. Being a mountain stream, its waters rise with unusual rapidity, and swell to an extent that would do honour to a river of greater pretensions. "Skyreburn," says Symson, "having its rise from Cairnsmore and the adjacent northern mountains, will, even in the summer time, and in a moment almost, by reason of the mists and vapours in those hills, be so great, that it will be hardly fordable, which occasioned the proverb of *Skyreburn's warning*, applicable to any trouble that comes suddenly and unexpect-

edly. This sudden inundation proceeds, as said is, from the mists and vapours on Cairnsmore ; hence the common people say, *when that Cairnsmore hath a hat, Palnure* (a small river on the opposite side of that mountain) *and Skyreburn may laugh at that.*"—(*Large Description of Galloway.*) Salmon, cod, noud, skate, and flounders, are caught in the Fleet ; but the fishery is on a small scale, and scarcely repays the expense of labour. There is a harbour in the parish called Boat Green ; but as it lies in the immediate neighbourhood of Gatehouse of Fleet, in the parish of Girthon, there is an account of it in connection with that parish. A similar remark applies to the canal recently constructed by Mr Murray of Broughton, M.P. for the Stewartry, in order to facilitate the navigation to Gatehouse, and to reclaim land from the sea ; the quantity of land so reclaimed, lying chiefly in the parish of Girthon, being 170 acres. But it may here be mentioned, that the canal was made chiefly by means of persons brought by Mr Murray from his estates in Ireland (county of Donegal,) who were either tenants in arrear of rent, or representatives of such tenants ; the total number brought over being about 200. They were brought over and taken back at Mr Murray's expense ; and while he fed them comfortably during the progress of the work, the surplus of their wages was allowed as payment of rent.

*Botany.*—There is nothing peculiar in the botany of the parish. The number of acres under wood, according to the assessment for the property tax, is 616, of which not above two acres (on the estate of Rusco) consist of natural timber. The whole of the plantations consist of copsewood, except a few acres of old wood around the mansion-houses of Cardoness and Ardwall, and a few acres of young timber around those of Kirkclauch and Rusco.

#### II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Land-owners.*—The land-owners are, Sir David Maxwell of Cardoness, Bart. ; Alexander Murray of Broughton, M.P. ; Robert Hannay of Rusco ; James M'Dowall of Logan ; James Murray M'Culloch of Ardwall ; David Anderson of St Germans ; Walter M'Culloch of Kirkclauch ; and Miss Hannay of Kirkdale. The seats of Mr Murray and Miss Hannay respectively are in the two adjoining parishes ; the former in Girthon, the latter in Kirkmabreck. All the other land-owners reside in the parish, except Mr M'Dowall of Logan, and Mr Anderson of St Germans. The whole land of the parish, except what belongs to Mr Anderson and Mr Walter M'Culloch, is under strict entail ; and

no estate has changed proprietors, except by death, since the end of last century. The Gordons of Kenmure and collateral branches of the same family, were for centuries proprietors of almost the whole of the parish; but it is above a hundred years since any person of that name had property in it.

*Eminent Characters.*—The most eminent person connected with this parish is Samuel Rutherford, who was minister of Anwoth from 1627 to 1639, with the exception of about eighteen months previously to February 1638, during which he was banished to Aberdeen. Of his numerous writings, the first, namely, *Exercitationes Apologeticæ pro Divina Gratia*, was published in 1636, when he held the cure of Anwoth. It issued from a foreign press (Amsterdam,) and was dedicated to Lord Kenmure, who, as patron of the parish, was the means of bringing him to Galloway, and who had a seat (Rusco Castle,) in this parish. Rutherford was appointed Professor of Divinity in St Mary's College, St Andrews, in 1639; and, about eight years thereafter, he was elected Principal of that College. But the people of Anwoth were so anxious to retain him as their pastor, that they presented a strong petition to the commission of the General Assembly to that effect. (See the petition of "the Elderschip and Parraishenerie of ye paraishen of Anweth," in Murray's *Life of Rutherford*, p. 353.) It has appended to it 180 names. Another application, of a similar tendency, was laid before the same body, entitled "The Humble Petition of Galloway," signed by ninety-five persons. (Ib. 354.) Nor was Rutherford less averse to be separated from his flock than they were to retain him, for he presented to the commission an urgent remonstrance from himself against the propriety of his removal. (Ib. 151.) These various applications, however, were unsuccessful, and he was removed to St Andrews in the year already mentioned. But, notwithstanding the lapse of upwards of two centuries, Rutherford's name is still held in high veneration by the people of Anwoth; and a monument, consisting of a square granite pyramid, has, within the last three years, been erected to his memory. It is placed on Boreland Hill, is 56 feet high, and cost L.206, 6s. \*

Of Sir Godfrey M'Culloch of Merton, who resided at Cardoness, (of which he was the alleged proprietor,) in this parish, and

\* The Rev. Dr Cooke of Belfast preached a sermon on the farm of Boreland on the 9th September 1838, when a collection was made to assist in raising the monument, which amounted to L.51, 1s. 10d. So great an interest was felt throughout Anwoth and the neighbouring parishes, and the object so highly appreciated by the people, that no fewer than nearly 5000 persons were present.

who was executed at Edinburgh in 1697, for the murder of William Gordon, an ample account, including his "Last Speech," has been given in this work, under "General Observations on the County of Wigton," (pp. 225-7,) contributed by the present writer.

Colonel William Maxwell, son of the Rev. Mr Maxwell, minister of Minnigaff, and the founder of the Maxwells of Cardoness, was a brave officer. He had the military command of Glasgow during the Rebellion of 1715, and for his gallant services was presented with a piece of plate by the cities of Edinburgh and Glasgow, ornamented with the arms of both places. He married Miss Stewart of Castle-Stewart, niece to William Gordon, designed of Cardoness, murdered by Sir Godfrey M'Culloch.

The late Dr Maxwell Garthshore, of London, has a claim to be mentioned in any account of this parish. His father, (who was a son of Garthshore of Garthshore, a very ancient family,) was minister of Anwoth from 1714 to 1721, when he was translated to Kirkcudbright. Dr Garthshore died in London in 1812, at the age of eighty-two, having led an eminent and successful life as a physician. He was the author of various papers on professional subjects, published either in medical journals, or in the Transactions of the Royal Society of London. He married Miss M'Guffog, heiress of Rusco, in this parish. His only child, a son, predeceased him. The life of Dr Garthshore affords a striking proof of the eminence, wealth, and dignity, to which talents, when properly directed, good principles, and exemplary conduct, can elevate their possessor. (Murray's *Literary History of Galloway*, 1st edition, 1822, pp. 235-8; and Ewart's *Biographical Sketches*, London, 1830, pp. 180-232.)

*Martyr.*—John Bell of Whiteside, in the parish, "was the only son," says Wodrow, (*History*, vol. iv. p. 241,) "of a gentlewoman, heiress of Whiteside, who, after his father's death, was married to the Viscount of Kenmure." He had been forfeited in 1680, in consequence of his having been engaged at the battle of Bothwell Bridge. In 1685, Bell, with Halliday of Mayfield, Lennox of Irelandton, and two others, were surprised by Grierson of Lag, on Kirkconnell Muir, parish of Tongland, and barbarously shot on the spot, "without so much as allowing them to pray, though earnestly desired." (Ib. 242.) Bell was buried in the churchyard of Anwoth.\*

\* The monument erected to his memory, and still carefully preserved, bears the following inscription :

*Antiquities.*—There are two old baronial buildings in Anwoth, —the Tower of Rusco, and the Castle of Cardoness,—the former on the Fleet at the north-east of the parish, the latter on an abrupt eminence overlooking the bay at the mouth of the river. Both are of a square form, and very ancient; but the date of their erection cannot be ascertained. Rusco, though old and venerable, has recently been repaired, and is inhabited, having been let as a shooting residence. Cardoness has been unroofed for nearly a century and a half, having not been inhabited since the time of Sir Godfrey M'Culloch. At the south-west of the parish is a beautiful moat, standing on a steep and rocky peninsula. It has been completely fortified by a deep trench cut across the narrow piece of ground that joins it with the mainland. Near the moat, stands a thin stone 5 feet 3 inches high, almost perpendicular, engraved on both sides with the rude figure of a cross, accompanied with several ornamental strokes, supposed by some antiquarians to be Runic inscriptions. On the top of a hill, situated near the Castle of Cardoness, and about 300 feet above the level of the sea, is a vitrified fort, protected on the most accessible places by a double fosse. The top, which forms a level area 30 paces long and 20 broad, is nearly surrounded by an irregular ridge of loose stones, which have been twisted and partly fused by the action of fire, and are intermixed with vast quantities of vitrified matter. These loose stones and vitrified matter are scattered irregularly over the top of the fort, and exhibit no appearance of having ever formed a continuous wall. The vitrification is only partial and superficial. On the south of the fort, there is a broad flat stone, inscribed with various waving and spiral lines, of which the meaning is not known. Near it were

“ Here lyes John Bell of Whiteside, who was barbarously shot to death in the Paroch of Tongland, at the command of Grier of Lag, anno 1685.

“ This monument shall tell posterity  
That blessed Bell of Whitesyde here doth lye,  
Who at command of bloody Lag was shot,  
A murder strange which should not be forgot.  
Douglas of Morton did him quarters give,  
Yet cruel Lag would not let him survive.  
This martyr sought some time to recommend  
His soul to God before his days should end.  
The tyrant said, What, dev'l yo've pray'd enough  
This long seven years on mountain and in cleuch;  
And instantly caus'd him, with other four,  
Be shot to death upon Kirkconnel Moor;  
So thus did end the lives of these dear saints  
For there adherence to the Covenants.”



found, about sixty years ago, several silver coins; one of Edward VI.; the rest of Queen Elizabeth.

Under the head of antiquities may be named the old church of Anwoth, built in 1626.\* It was used as a place of worship till within the last twenty years. Though a new church has been built, the heritors, in good taste, have preserved the ancient building, which is of a barn-like appearance, and is one of the smallest and most humble we have seen; its length being 64 feet 7 inches; its width, 18 feet 3 inches; the side walls being only 10 feet high. The pulpit is of oak, so perforated that it is probable it had been used for some purpose previously to its being converted to the use which it has so long served. Several of the seats are of the same wood, and most of them that are so are embellished with carving. Two may be mentioned; one bearing the date of 1631, the other of 1633,—a proof that the church had been erected some years before the seating of it had been completed. The former of these was that of the family of Bell of Hinton, and bears the initials J. B. The latter has the letters J. W. carved on it above the representation of the family arms. These initials refer to John or James Walker, of whom nothing is known except that their names appear among the signatures to the *Petition from Anwoth* in 1639. The church bell is said to have been a present from Lady Kenmure; and to have been previously used at Rusco Castle as a dinner bell; a thing not improbable from its dimensions, namely 11 inches in diameter, and 13 inches high.

Bushy-Bield, the house in which Rutherford lived at Anwoth, and which, as the name imports, stood in a sheltered situation surrounded with wood, continued standing till the year 1827, when it was pulled down. It was of a baronial character, and was not, it is probable, built for Rutherford, but had previously been the residence of a private gentleman. It was never in the glebe, and the farm on which it was situated is now the property of Mr Murray of Broughton.

A walk close by, which Rutherford was accustomed to fre-

\* This church was built immediately previous to Rutherford's being brought to Anwoth. There was no manse at this time; nor indeed while he remained in the parish. The truth is, the three contiguous parishes of Anwoth, Kirkdale, and Kirkmabreck, were united *quoad sacra*, though distinct *quoad civilia*, for some time at least before Rutherford's induction; the cure of the three parishes being under the ministry of one clergyman, (Mr Dalglish.) The people of Anwoth at that time had sermon only "everie second Sabbath, by reasone of ane most inconvenient unione with uther twa kirks." (*Life of Rutherford*, p. 28.)

quent, is still denominated *Rutherford's Walk*. It was here, as tradition bears, where he recognized Archbishop Usher, having overheard him engaged in prayer on behalf of the people of his diocese. The tradition is as follows :—The archbishop on passing through Galloway, urged by the admiration he entertained for Rutherford's character, paid him a visit in disguise at Anwoth, and was most hospitably received. He arrived at Bushy-Bield on a Saturday, on the evening of which day the minister was in the habit of catechising his family on religious subjects. The stranger is reported to have been asked "How many commandments are there?"—to which he answered eleven; and on being reminded that there are only ten, he quoted, in corroboration of the correctness of his reply, the words of our Saviour, "a new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another." The ability of these answers surprised Rutherford. On the following morning the stranger was accidentally recognised. Being overheard by his host, (in a thicket adjoining his favourite walk,) engaged in prayer, couched in language of uncommon felicity, and containing allusions to the people under his spiritual care, Rutherford immediately thereafter took an opportunity of stating his suspicion as to the rank and character of his guest. Usher frankly confessed the truth, and explained the circumstance on the ground that, being anxious to see a man of whom he had heard so much and thought so highly, and suspecting that he might be averse to receive the visit of a bishop if he knew him to be such, he had been induced to assume a disguise to accomplish his object. Rutherford welcomed him with great cordiality, as a man venerable equally for learning and piety. He requested him to preach to his people, as it was Sabbath, which Usher readily consented to do, adopting the Presbyterian form of worship, and laying aside for a time the Episcopal ceremonies. His text was the "new commandment" mentioned above.

There is another tradition connected with this period that cannot be passed over in silence. Between the church of Anwoth and Skyreburn there is a level piece of ground on the farm of Mossrobin, where the people, in Rutherford's days, were wont to assemble after sermon on Sabbath, and play at football; a practice the minister is said not to have denounced and condemned from the pulpit only, but, following them to the scene of their amusement, solemnly to have reproved them there, calling on the ob-

jects around him, particularly three large stones, to witness between them and him, that, however they might continue to behave, he had done his duty. Two of these stones still remain, and are known under the name of "Rutherford's witnesses." The history of the removal of the third is curious, and savours much of superstitious feelings that have not yet entirely disappeared. A person employed in building a fence wished to avail himself of these stones, when a fellow-labourer remonstrated with him on the subject, and warned him of the danger of laying a sacrilegious hand on objects so sacred. This warning he scornfully disregarded, and he removed one of them, uttering expressions little respectful to the earnest piety which had given them distinction. The result is said to have been such as had been feared. The man soon after came to a violent end, which was viewed as a judgment from heaven, in consequence of the alleged unhallowed and profane act of which he had been guilty. One report says, that the person having declared, in answer to the warning he had received, that he would remove the stone ere he broke his fast, was choked with the first mouthful he attempted to swallow. The tradition, in one shape or another, is pretty generally believed by the less educated portion of the people. The inhabitants of Anwoth still hold these "witnesses" in veneration.\*

It may be mentioned that, in 1574, the well-known Robert Campbell of Kinyeancleuch (Ayrshire,) accompanied by John Davidson, afterwards minister of Prestonpans, paid a visit to Rusco Castle, the residence of Sir John Gordon of Lochinvar, grandfather of the first Lord Kenmure. Kinyeancleuch was seized with fever soon after his arrival, and died there in less than a fortnight's illness.

Maxwell, laird of Stroquhan, Dumfriesshire, was drowned in the river Fleet, in 1699, under the following circumstances: He had been on a visit to Brown, a gentleman resident in Bushy-Bield, for whose daughter, Jane Brown, he was said to entertain an attachment. He is also said to have been unsuccessful in his addresses to the young lady, who afterwards became the wife of the Rev. Patrick Johnston, minister of Girthon, and was the great-grandmother of the present Right Hon. Sir Alexander Johnston of Carnsalloch. At all events, he is represented to have left Bushy-Bield abruptly, and on the evening of the same day, he was

\* Life of Rutherford, *ut supra*, pp. 348-9, and 358-9.

drowned in the Fleet at a place called "Stroquhan's pool," in commemoration of the mournful accident.\*

*Mansion-houses.*—These are, Cardoness,—not the castle of that name, which has, for nearly a century and a half, been uninhabitable, but a comparatively modern house, built by the Maxwell family,—Ardwall, Kirkclauch, Rusco House, built about the beginning of the present century, and the Tower of Rusco, which is inhabited, not by the proprietor, but by a tenant.

### III.—POPULATION.

The population in 1841 was 883; in 1831, it was 830; in 1821, 845; in 1811, 740; in 1801, 637; and in 1755, 530. Exclusive of Fleet Street, a suburb of Gatehouse extending into Anwoth, and which is of recent origin, the number of inhabitants

\* We shall give a quotation from verses written on the occasion, and which have been preserved traditionally for the long space of nearly a century and a-half.†

Lately alone as I went on  
 The pleasant banks of Fleet,  
 The sisters nine whispering syne,  
 Invited me to weep.  
 'Twas in November ninety-nine  
 This tragedy befel,  
 Which of Stroquhan, that gentleman,  
 Now ruefully I tell.

From Bushy-Bield to Rusco Place  
 And Lag without delay,—  
 At all these three kindly he  
 Invited was to stay.  
 But generously promised had he  
 To meet some gentlemen  
 To hunt on Dee, but rather he  
 Was forced unto his en'.

He late did ride, without a guide,  
 Along a lanesome stank.  
 His stumbling horse fell from his course  
 Out owre the water's bank.  
 The night was dark, the water stark,  
 And nane to help the man,  
 Till death accost, and so was lost  
 Brave Maxwell of Stroquhan.

Ye poets, with your trumps of fame,  
 Now loud and rapidly  
 Proclaim the man, I mean Stroquhan,  
 Of glorious memory.

† Mr Nicholson of Kirkeudbright, in his *Historical and Traditional Tales* (1843), has published a version of these uncouth verses somewhat different from that which is familiar to the present writer, and has taken no notice of the circumstances above stated. There are other discrepancies between the two versions; but our informant, a person of a most tenacious memory, a distant relative of Miss Brown, and born 117 years ago, near the spot where the accident happened, seems to us to be unexceptionable authority. We refer to Elizabeth Coughtry, who was born at Tanniefad, parish of Girthon, in 1727.

in the landward portion of the parish may be regarded as almost stationary since the period last mentioned, or for the last 80 years. Indeed, in 1792, previously to the existence of Fleet Street, the population was 492; so that it had actually diminished between these two periods. In 1841, the population of 883 consisted of 402 males and 481 females.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—Of the 9023 acres of which the parish consists, about one-fourth is arable and meadow, and the remaining three-fourths woodlands or hill pasture. Leases generally vary in duration from fifteen to nineteen years. The rent of arable land about L.1 per acre; of pasture land, from 5s. to 10s. The farm tenements are, on the whole, very commodious and substantial buildings; and the most approved system of agriculture prevails. The breed of black cattle are chiefly of the pure Galloway kind, with a few of Highland and Irish descent. The sheep are mostly of the black-faced breed, with a few Leicesters and Southdowns.

*Mines.*—There is a lead mine on the estate of Rusco, which has been in operation at intervals for about thirty years. No great quantity of ore has been raised from it; and to most of the companies who have successively undertaken to work it, it has not proved a profitable speculation. It is at present in the hands of a company from Cumberland, and report speaks favourably of its produce. The vein can be more or less distinctly traced across the whole parish. Both copper and zinc ores have been detected in the mine, but in small quantities. Lead has been found on the farm of Kirkbride, the property of Mr Murray of Broughton, and has been partially wrought, but with little success.

*Rental.*—From the assessment for the property-tax, it appears that the total rental of the parish is L.4019, exclusive of the land and wood-land in the possession of the proprietors, which may amount to about L.526, making the aggregate rental L.4545. The total rental, according to the old Statistical Account, published in 1794, was L.2200; so that the value of land in the parish has more than doubled within the last fifty years.

*Wages.*—The annual wages of a good agricultural servant, unmarried, are between L.10 and L.12, including victuals; of a good cot-man, with a house and garden, but exclusive of victuals, between L.20 and L.24; and of a good female servant, between L.5 and L.6 with victuals. The wages of an able labourer, exclusive of victuals, average 1s. 6d. per day in summer, and

1s. 4d. in winter; and a female's wages, also without victuals, average about 8d. per day for turnip work, 10d. per day for hay, and 1s. 6d. for harvest work. The number of agricultural labourers in the parish is about 45; of artisans, about 20. There are no able-bodied labourers who cannot find employment. The price of meal is from 1s. 6d. to 1s. 8d. per imperial stone; of potatoes, 12s. per boll; of coals, L.1, 3s. per ton of 36 cwt.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-town.*—The market-town of Gatehouse is divided from the parish by the Fleet; of which, indeed, a considerable portion, called Fleet Street, lies on the Anwoth side of the river. There is no village nor post-office in the parish, Gatehouse being the post town.

*Roads.*—The turnpike road between Dumfries and Portpatrick runs through the parish, nearly along the line of the shore. Previously to its being opened about forty years ago, the public road was most inconvenient, and almost impracticable. It left the shore at Gatehouse, and, regardless of hills or any obstruction, it went by a somewhat irregular line over the Corse of Slakes, an eminence about 800 feet above the level of the sea. The distance from Gatehouse to Creetown is three miles and a-half greater, but the road is nearly a dead level, and is one of the best in Scotland, affording one of the most beautiful and picturesque drives that can easily be imagined. Some of the parish roads are good; others are much neglected. A mail coach passes through the parish daily, to and from Dumfries and Portpatrick respectively.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church is situated rather more than a mile from Gatehouse, and about half a mile inland from the Fleet. It was built about seventeen years ago on a piece of ground about 250 yards from the old venerable structure, and is most substantial and commodious. The manse, which of late has undergone extensive repairs, and is a superior building, is within a quarter of a mile from the church. The glebe contains about 7 acres; and the stipend, according to the Report of the Commissioners of Religious Instruction in Scotland, is L. 247, 10s. 7d. leaving a surplus of vacant teinds to the amount of L. 41, 18s. 1d. The stipend, however, is variable, as all the proprietors, except those of Cardoness and Kirkdale, who pay in money, are assessed according to the fiar's prices.\* Sir David Maxwell of Cardoness is

\* We may state that the stipend, in Rutherford's time, consisted of 200 merks Scots, (about L.11 Sterling), derived from the teinds of the parish, and of a voluntary contribution on the part of his hearers.—*Life of Rutherford*, p. 41.

the patron. The number of communicants in the parish church has not of late years been less than 250, nor more than 300. There is a Dissenting chapel in Anwoth at Fleet Street, belonging to the Secession, but only about forty persons in the parish attend it. The number of Roman Catholics is about 20. There are a few "Free Church" adherents in the parish, who attend public worship in Gatehouse. The following is a list of the ministers of the parish since the Revolution: Michael Bruce, 1689; Thomas Hay, 1696; George Garthshore, 1714; William Ainslie, 1724; John Welsh, 1727; Robert Carson, 1753; William Gordone, 1770; Hugh Gordon, 1790; Thomas Turnbull, 1809; Thomas Johnstone, 1839.

*Education.*—There is one parish school with the maximum salary, besides two Sabbath schools. The salary of the parochial teacher is the maximum. There are 20 children whose parents are unable to pay school fees, who receive their education gratis.

*Poor.*—The number of paupers on the permanent roll is 16; on the occasional, 6. There is no legal assessment. The church collections on Sabbath average fully L. 40 yearly; and there is an annual income of L. 4, 10s. 4d. from a mortification; in addition to which there is a small sum, varying in amount, from the usual parochial sources. But the heritors voluntarily contribute such a sum additional (generally about L. 30) as may be required for the support of the poor. From the poor's funds are paid the salaries of the precentor, beadle, session-clerk, presbytery and synod clerks and presbytery officer. The total sum disbursed in 1843 was L. 80. Mr Murray of Broughton makes an annual allowance to a medical man for attending the poor, both in Girthon and Anwoth. There is no pawnbroker's shop in the parish; nor is there any begging on the part of the inhabitants.

*Inns.*—There are two inns, both in Fleet Street.

*Savings Bank.*—There is no institution of this kind in the parish; but not a few of the parishioners take advantage of the savings bank in Gatehouse.

*Library.*—There is one circulating library in the parish.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Anwoth, from its being chiefly a pastoral parish, has perhaps undergone as few changes within the last fifty years as any other district in the south of Scotland. There are, however, some departments in which a favourable contrast may be drawn, within that period. A new turnpike road has been made through the

parish ; and the old line by the Corse of Slakes (which was by far the steepest and the longest road-ascent in Galloway), has been virtually abandoned ; the Fleet canal has been constructed ; a new church and manse have been built ; the church collections have risen from L.14 to L.40 ; the stipend has been tripled ; the schoolmaster's salary has advanced from L.11 to L.34, 4s. 4½d. ; the rental of the parish has been doubled ; the houses of the farmers, and their general style of living, have been much improved ; superstitious opinions are greatly weakened, if not eradicated, unless on the part of the older portion of the population, or in the more remote and thinly inhabited districts of the parish ; the wages of labour have increased about 25 per cent., while the price of the leading articles of food, meal and potatoes, for example, is about the same as in 1794 ; butcher-meat being a little higher, but clothing much cheaper. Indeed as to female servants, their wages are stated at L.1, 15s. per half year at that date : They now vary from L.2, 10s. to L.3. Peat was the only fuel used in the parish, except by the resident heritors, in 1794 ; about equal quantities of coal (brought from the opposite coast of Cumberland) and peat are now burnt. The number of paupers, however, has risen, within the last fifty years, from 10 to 21. The church collections, and the usual parochial revenue were, in 1794, sufficient for their relief ; now, though all these sources of income have become more ample, the heritors have to advance a yearly sum of about L.30. On the whole, however, the standard of living and the means of comfort among all classes are greatly elevated, and the character and condition of the people have been improved.

*October 1844.*



## STEWARTRY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

---

THIS Stewartry is situate betwixt 54° 43' and 55° 19' north lat., and 3° 38' and 4° 34' west long. It is bounded on the north, by the shires of Dumfries and Ayr; on the east and south, by the Solway Frith and the Irish Sea; on the west, by the county of Wigton. It extends from east to west above 48 miles; and its breadth varies from 17 to 30 miles. It contains about 882 square miles. About two-thirds of the surface is mountainous; and it is calculated that about 110,000 acres are cultivated.

The valued rent is L. 114,637, 2s. Scots. The real rent in 1831 amounted to L. 213,308.

The Stewartry has a constituency of 1336, and sends one member to Parliament. The population in 1841 amounted to 41,119. The occupations of the people, according to the census of 1831, were as follows:—

Occupiers of land employing labourers, . . . . .	871
Do. not employing labourers, . . . . .	490
Labourers employed in agriculture, . . . . .	2648
Employed in manufactures, . . . . .	529
in retail trade and handicraft, . . . . .	2299
Capitalists, bankers, &c. . . . .	440
Labourers not agricultural, . . . . .	1076
Other males 20 years of age, . . . . .	805
Male servants, . . . . .	108
Female servants, . . . . .	2978

**TABLE—Shewing the Ecclesiastical State, &c. of Parishes in the Stewartry of Kirkcubright.**

Parishes,	Ecclesiastical State.							Par. Schoolmasters' Emoluments.				Annual amount of Contributions for the Poor.			
	Population in 1841.	Families belonging to Estab. Church.	Individuals Do.	Families of Dis. or Seced. Do.	Individuals Do.	Amount of Parochial Ministers' stipend.	Schools in Par.	Salary.	Fees.	Total.	From assessment or voluntary contrib. by Heritors.	From Church collections.	From Alms, Legacies, &c.	Total.	
															...
Kirkcubright	3511	...	3100	...	...	L.280.	11	L.25 13 3 } 25 13 3 }	...	...	L.80 0 0	L.140 8 6	L.38 17 0	L.259 5 6	
Twynholm,	871	145	...	12	...	226.	3	34 4 4 } 34 4 4 }	L.14 0 0 See text.	L.48 4 4 120 0 0	30 1 0	35 0 0 40 0 0	2 18 0	...	
Borgue, Tongland,	894 800	...	965	...	...	150.	2	34 4 4 } 34 0 0 }	...	...	...	48 0 0	...	70 0 0 75 0 0	
Balmacellan,	1013	...	...	22	...	226, 19s.	4	17 2 2 } 17 2 2 }	L.26 0 0 } 28 0 0 }	43 2 2 } 43 2 2 }	28 0 0	22 0 0	25 0 0	...	
Kells, Minnigaff,	1128 1855	...	...	...	50 209	299. 263.	1 3	34 4 4 } 34 4 4 }	...	67 0 0 } 62 8 8 }	...	37 0 0 80 7 0	167.&int.522/ L.40 10 0	...	
Kelton,	2877	...	2117	...	455	17 chalders.	6	17 2 0 } 17 2 0 }	32 0 0 } 32 0 0 }	49 2 0 } 49 2 0 }	300 0 0	30 0 0	...	330 0 0	
Balmaghie,	1416	...	...	...	150	16 chalders.	...	21 6 0 } 31 6 0 }	...	35 6 0 } 61 6 0 }	...	...	...	80 0 0	
Crossmichael,	1325	...	...	11	...	L.269.	4	28 6 0 } 23 0 0 }	30 0 0 } 20 0 0 }	20 0 0 } 20 0 0 }	...	40 0 0	...	...	
Buittle,	1000	...	...	...	...	211.	...	23 0 0 } 29 11 0 }	...	44 11 0 } 47 15 0 }	...	27 0 0	...	...	
Colvend, Kirkgunzeon, Troqueur,	1358 652 4665	...	...	...	...	232. 150. 322.	...	21 15 0 } 34 4 4 }	15 0 0 } 36 0 0 }	...	...	20 0 0 12 0 0	6 0 0 Int. of L.181.	...	
		...	...	4	...	...	6	30 16 0 }	...	...	10 0 0	...	...	140 0 0	

TABLE—Shewing the Ecclesiastical State, &c. of Parishes in the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright.—Continued.

Parishes.	Population in 1841.	Ecclesiastical State.						Par. Schoolmasters' Emoluments.				Annual amount of Contributions for the Poor.			
		Families belonging to Par. Church.	Do. Individuals.	Kamillies of Dia. or Seced.	Do. Individuals.	Amount of Parochial Ministers' stipend.	Schools in Par.	Salary.	Fees.	Total.	From assessment or voluntary contrib. by Heritors.	From Church collections.	From Alms, Legacies &c.	Total.	
Terregles, Kirkbean,	606 802	...	...	21	...	L.150. 180.	1 22	L.35 0 0 22 chalders.	L.16 0 0	L.51 0 0	L.18 0 0	L.14 0 0 30 0 0	Int. of L.446. L.15 0 0	...	
New Abbey,	1060	...	935	35	1115	16 chalders.	5	10 13 0 10 13 0	...	...	...	...	L.25 0 0	0	
Kirkpatrick-Durham,	1487	...	1284	...	202	L.271.	3	34 4 4	...	...	11 0 0	50 0 0	22 0 0	0	
Kirkpatrick-Irongray,	912	...	...	...	...	16 chalders.	2	25 13 0 25 13 0	15 0 0 15 0 0	40 13 0 40 13 0	60 0 0	15 0 0	24 0 0	0	
Casphairn,	542	...	...	3	...	15 chalders.	...	34 4 4	...	...	15 0 0	18 0 0	20 0 0	0	
Paron,	827	...	...	...	...	16 chalders.	...	31 6 0 25 0 0 25 0 0	25 0 0 25 0 0 15 0 0	56 6 0 45 0 0 45 0 0	40 6 0	24 8 0	...	64 14 0	
Lochrutton, Girthon, Kirkcubreck,	650 1751 1779	...	...	43 46	...	L.182. 141.	...	30 0 0 30 0 0	...	...	...	46 0 0 48 0 0	...	20 0 0 95 0 0	
Urr,	3098	...	...	56	...	16 chalders.	5	35 4 4 22 8 9	26 0 0	60 4 4	40 0 0	48 0 0	7 0 0	0	
Berrick,	1635	...	...	...	...	16 chalders.	8	11 0 0	...	...	56 0 0	40 0 0	Int. of L.100.	...	
Dairy, Anwoth,	1215 838	...	600	...	110	15 chalders. L.247 10 7	2 2	30 0 0 21 6 0 51 6 0 34 4 4	70 0 0 70 0 0	100 0 0 91 0 0	45 0 0	49 0 0 11 0 0 40 0 0	L.5 0 0 1 8 0 4 10 4	99 0 0 74 10 4	



# INDEX.

- Abbey of Dundrennan, the, 357, 362—**  
 of Lincluden, 232—of Sweetheart, 249  
 —of Tongland, 88  
**Abbot's tower, ruins of, 250**  
**Academy, Kirkcudbright, 33—Borgue, 61**  
**Achenreoch loch, 347**  
**Achenskeoch, ruins of castle at, 216**  
**Agriculture and rural statistics, 27, 41,**  
 57, 94, 105, 113, 135, 163, 186, 197,  
 205, 216, 221, 227, 233, 239, 252, 261,  
 270, 277, 284, 288, 300, 336, 352, 366,  
 372, 383  
**Agricultural Society, Kelton, 167**  
**Agricola in Kirkcudbright, 10**  
**Alan, Lord of Galloway, monument of,**  
 364  
**Aldus, King, supposed remains of, 332**  
**Alwhannie Nowes, the, 277**  
**Antiquities, 19, 39, 53, 87, 103, 111, 128,**  
 153, 181, 195, 203, 216, 220, 227, 232,  
 238, 249, 258, 277, 283, 287, 297, 331,  
 351, 362, 370, 378  
**Anwoth, parish of, 373**  
**Arbigland house, 235, 238**  
**Arch, natural, in Rerrick, 361**  
**Ardoch, loch, 370**  
**Ardwall house, 382**  
**Areeming, ruins of church at, 259**  
**Argrennan house, 89**  
**Arundel house, 226**  
**Auchencairn house and village, 356**  
**Auchencruive house, 269**  
**Auchendolly, mineral spring at, 192**  
**Auchengool house, 360**  
**Auchlane burn, 146**  
**Auld burn, 266**  
**Bag nets, fishing for salmon by, 80**  
**Balcarry house, 356, 365—port of, 361**  
**Balmaclellan, parish of, 98—village, 104**  
**Balmæs house, 25**  
**Balmaghie, parish of, 178—house, 183**  
**Balmangan tower, ruins of, 54**  
**Banks in Castle-Douglas, 169—in Kirk-**  
**cudbright, 32**  
**Barbour, James, of Dunmuir, improve-**  
**ments by, 163**  
**Barclay, fort on, 216**  
**Bargally house, 134**  
**Bargrennan, chapel at, 140**  
**Barholm, 334**
- Barlae, slate quarry of, 370**  
**Barlocco house, 360**  
**Barnhowrie, sandbank of, 217**  
**Barton, John, burial-place of, 17**  
**Barwhinnock house, 40**  
**Bedstead, ancient, 183**  
**Bell, John, a covenanter, death of, 16,**  
 377—monument to, 378  
**Benbreck, ruins of castle at, 371**  
**Bengairn hill, 145, 355**  
**Bennan hill, 108**  
**Biggar, Jean, bequest by, 271**  
**Bishop's forest, hill of the, 266**  
**Black cove of Rerrick, the, 356**  
**Black water, the, 369**  
**Blackadder, Rev. Mr, 226**  
**Blacklock, Dr Thomas, 18**  
**Boat green, port of, 375—village of, 303**  
**Bombie, tutor of, death of, 12, 156, 182**  
**Bombie castle, ruins of, 20—mains, Ro-**  
**man camp at, *ib.***  
**Boreland, dun of, 53**  
**Borness, headland of, 48**  
**Borgue, parish of, 47**  
**Borrow point, 235**  
**Boss cairns, the, 131**  
**Botany, 9, 51, 66, 102, 110, 121, 150,**  
 276, 283, 293, 322, 375  
**Brick factory in Girthon, 303**  
**Bridge of Dee, village of, 188**  
**Bridge of Orr, village of, 260**  
**Bridges, see Roads.**  
**British forts in Borgue, 53—in Kirk-**  
**cudbright, 19—in Twynholm, 39**  
**Bromland house, 226**  
**Brown, Gilbert, 250, 326—Dr Thomas,**  
 birth-place, sketch of the life, and bur-  
 ial-place of, 328  
**Bruce, traditions regarding, 124, 352**  
**Buchanites, sect of the, 262, 352**  
**Buekland burn, 5**  
**Buittle, parish of, 200—castle, remains**  
 of, 203  
**Burnfoot, port of, 361**  
**Bush park, moat at, 298**  
**Bushy Bield, the, 379**  
**Caerbantorgium, fort of, 19**  
**Cairn water, the, 231, 265, 267**  
**Cairns on Bengairn, 355—in Carsphairn,**  
 277—in Crossmichael, 195, 196—in

C C

**KIRKCUDBRIGHT.**

- Dalry, 370—in Kelton, 153—in Kirkgunzeon, 220—in Kirkmabreck, 332, 333—in Minnigaff, 128, 131, 132—in Parton, 283  
 Cairnharrow hill, 314, 374  
 Cairnholy, and traditions regarding it, 333, 334  
 Cairnsmuir hill, 118, 274, 314—house, 134  
 Cally house, 297—ruins of the old, *ib.*  
 Campbell, Admiral John, birth-place of, 237—Robert, 381  
 Camps, ancient, in Rerrick, 362  
 Canoes found in Carlinwark loch, 155  
 Cardonness castle, ruins of, 378—house, 382  
 Cargen house, 225—water, 224, 231, 287  
 Cargenholm house, 226  
 Carline's cairn hill, 274  
 Carlinwark house, 161—loch, 147  
 Carpenter, John, 17  
 Carruchan house, 226  
 Carse, bay of, 235—British camp at, 20  
 Carsphairn, parish of, 273  
 Castle-Douglas, town of, 167  
 Castle Hayne, ruins of, 54  
 Cassencarrie house, 335  
 Castrammon, moat at, 298  
 Cathcart, Colonel M'Adam, 280  
 Cavens castle, ruins of, 238—house, *ib.*  
 Caves in Anwoth, 374—in Colvend, 215—in Kirkcudbright, 6—in Kirkmabreck, 315—in Rerrick, 356  
 Churches, ancient, in Kirkcudbright, 21—in New Abbey, 245  
 Churches and chapels, see Ecclesiastical Statistics.  
 Clachan of Dalry, village of, 371  
 Claens, ruins at, 332  
 Clarebrand, village of, 198  
 Claverhouse, notices of, 295, 347  
 Climate and Meteorology, 3, 65, 99, 109, 118, 145, 201, 235, 245, 266, 293, 315, 372, 374  
 Clints of Drumore hills, 314  
 Cluden water, 265, 267  
 Coins, ancient, found in Kirkgunzeon, 220—in New Abbey, 250—in Southend, 216—in Twynholm, 39—in Urr, 351  
 Collin house, 356, 365  
 Colvend and Southwick, united parishes of, 215  
 Commelin, John, bequest by, 28  
 Communion stones, the, 268  
 Competon castle, ruins of, 40—house, *ib.*  
 Conchology of Kirkmabreck, the, 321  
 Copper mines in Girthon, 293  
 Corah castle, ruins of, 220  
 Corsock castle, ruins of, 283—loch, 282  
 Cotton mills in Gatehouse, 302  
 Covenanters, persecution of the, in Anwoth, 377—in Balmaghie, 184—in Girthon, 294—in Irongray, 268—in Kirkcudbright, 15—in Kirkpatrick-Durham, 258—in Minnigaff, 124—in Tongland, 87—in Urr, 347  
 Craig burn, 99—hill, 314  
 Craigencallie, battle of, 124  
 Craigend loch, 246  
 Craignair hill and quarry, 210  
 Craik, William, Esq. of Arbigland, 207  
 Cree, loch of, 119—water, 117, 118, 119, 317  
 Cree, wood of, 123  
 Creebridge, village of, 134  
 Creetown, village of, 341  
 Criffell hill, 234, 245  
 Cririe, Dr, 33  
 Crocketford, village of, 260  
 Crogo burn, 99—village, 104  
 Crossmichael, parish of, 190—village, 198  
 Cruckie hill, 282  
 Cruives, fishing for salmon by, 178  
 Cumloden cottage, 118, 134  
 Cummin's castle, site of, 227  
 Currie, David, bequest by, 28  
 Daer, Lord, 18  
 Dalarran, standing stone at, 103  
 Dalbeattie, village of, 351, 352—paper mills at, 353  
 Daldawn house, 161  
 Dalgleish, Rev. William, 328  
 Dalry, parish of, 369—ruins of old church of, 370  
 Dalscairth house, 226  
 Dams, ancient, in Carlinwark loch, 154  
 Danevale house, 197  
 Danish forts in Borgue, 54  
 Davidson, Messrs, cotton mills of, 303  
 Dee loch, 119—river, 3, 38, 64, 65, 110, 118, 146, 179, 191, 192, 200, 282  
 Deer parks in Minnigaff, 121  
 Denniston, Captain James, 296  
 Deugh water, 3, 4, 110, 273, 369  
 Devorgilla, princess, 249  
 Dirk Hatteraick's cave, 315  
 Dissenters and Dissenting chapels, 29, 43, 61, 107, 114, 141, 173, 188, 199, 217, 222, 242, 254, 262, 279, 289, 305, 307, 344, 351, 367, 372, 385  
 Doschs, fishing for salmon by, 78  
 Douglas, murder of the tutor of Bombie by, 12, 156, 182  
 Douglas, Miss, bequest by, 176—Samuel, bequest by, 331—Sir William, improvements by, 163, 168  
 Douglas cairn, 245  
 Drag-nets, fishing for salmon by, 81  
 Draining, 27, 43, 277, 372  
 Druidical remains in Crossmichael, 196—in Kelton, 153—in Kirkcudbright, 23—in Kirkmabreck, 331—in Lochrutton, 287—in Parton, 283—in Rerrick, 362—in Tongland, 87  
 Drum of Knockman, cairn on, 132  
 Drums, origin of, 50, 99—in Kelton, 144  
 Drumburn, village of, 253  
 Drumcottran tower, ruins of, 220

- Drumlawhinnie, cairn of, 131  
 Duchrae house, 184  
 Dullarg, mineral spring at, 282  
 Dun, James and Robert, death of, 124  
 Dun of Boreland, the, 53  
 Dunbar, Mr, bequest by, 141  
 Duncan, Rev. George, bequest by, 290  
 Dundrennan abbey, ruins and history of, 357, 362—house, 365—valley of, 360—village of, 357, 359  
 Dungeon loch, 110  
 Dungyle hill, 145—fort on, 153  
 Dunrod church, ruins of, 22  
 Earliston castle, ruins of, 371—house, 56—linn, 371—water, 369  
 Ecclesiastical statistics, 28, 44, 60, 96, 106, 114, 140, 170, 188, 198, 212, 217, 222, 229, 233, 242, 253, 262, 271, 279, 285, 289, 306, 343, 351, 353, 367, 372, 384—general, of the county, 388  
 Education, statistics of, 33, 45, 61, 96, 107, 115, 141, 174, 188, 199, 213, 222, 229, 233, 242, 254, 263, 271, 279, 285, 290, 308, 345, 353, 368, 373, 385—general, of the county, 388  
 Edward I., notices of, 11, 39, 294  
 Eel, habits of the, 86  
 Enrick, moat at, 298  
 Erncrags loch, 191  
 Erskine, Rev. William, 294, 295  
 Faed, John, 296  
 Fair Maid of Galloway, death of the, 158  
 Falbey, loch, 282  
 Farm buildings, 27, 43, 59, 105, 137, 164, 187, 198, 217, 220, 240, 252, 301, 338, 372, 383  
 Fences, peculiar, in Galloway, 164  
 Fergus, Lord of Galloway, 11  
 Fergusson, Mr Cutlar, 360—Henry, improvements by, *ib.*—Robert, martyrdom of, 295  
 Fisheries, salmon, 27, 52, 76, 138, 193, 210, 227, 257, 275, 321, 340, 367—sea, 52, 320, 340  
 Fishing for salmon, various modes of, 78  
 Fleet bay, 373—lochs, 292—water, 291, 292, 374  
 Fludha house, 25  
 Forge tree, the, 202  
 Forts, ancient, in Bogue, 53—in Kelton, 153—in Kirkcudbright, 19  
 Fossil remains in Buittle, 209  
 Friendly societies, 199  
 Fuel, 36, 46, 62, 116, 144, 177, 189, 200, 223, 230, 243, 264, 272, 280, 285, 290, 309, 346, 372  
 Gaff, fishing for salmon by the, 81  
 Galdus, traditional burial-place of, 333  
 Gallovidian princes, history of the, 11  
 Gallowahill of Terregles, the, 232  
 Gallows slot in Kelton, the, 156  
 Galtway church, ruins of, 22  
 Garlies castle, ruins of, 128  
 Garpie water, 99  
 Garroch house, 112  
 Gartshore, Dr Maxwell, 377  
 Gatehouse of Fleet, village of, 292, 298, 303  
 Gelston castle, ruins of, 161—church, ruins of, 170  
 Geology and mineralogy, 6, 49, 66, 100, 110, 120, 147, 193, 216, 225, 236, 246, 257, 267, 274, 287, 293, 317, 361, 370  
 Gerranton, moat at, 195  
 Gill of Cree, the, 119  
 Gillespie, Rev. William, 111  
 Girthon, parish of, 291  
 Glen hill, Waterloo monument on, 248  
 Glenbennan hill, 266  
 Glengap burn, 29  
 Glenkens society, the, 106, 113, 278  
 Glenlee park, 109, 112  
 Glenquicken moor, cairns in, 332, 333  
 Gold found in Carsphairn, 274  
 Goldielea house, 226  
 Gordon of Lochinvar, family of, 370—the translator of Tacitus, 111—Edward, martyrdom of, 269—John, 16—Sir John, improvements by, 58—Mr and Miss, bequests by, 28—Mrs, of Campbellton, 92  
 Grange burn, 5  
 Granite, mode of working, in Kirkmabreck, 339  
 Greannoch, loch, 179, 291  
 Greenlaw house, 197  
 Greig, Henry, execution of, 17  
 Grey cairn in Minnigaff, the, 132  
 Grierson of Lag, notices of, 16, 227, 377  
 Grove house, 270  
 Guy Mannering, scene of, 315  
 Hallam, John, a covenanter, death of, 16  
 Halliday, David, death of, 184, 377  
 Hang-nets, fishing for salmon by, 80.  
 Harbours, Kirkcudbright, 31—Kirkmabreck, 343—New Abbey, 263  
 Harrow loch, 110  
 Hart burn, 5  
 Hayne, castle, ruins of, 54  
 Heather ale of the Picts, the, 130  
 Hedges, peculiar, in Galloway, 164  
 Hepburn, Rev. John, 348  
 Heron, the historian, birthplace of, 111—Lady, bequest by, 141  
 Herries, Lord, 357—Sir John, death of, 12—Michael, bequest by, 354  
 Heston isle, 356  
 Hill house, 335  
 Hills castle, ruins of, 288  
 History, civil, 10, 39, 53, 87, 103, 111, 123, 150, 181, 193, 203, 216, 219, 225, 231, 237, 247, 258, 276, 283, 287, 294, 323, 348, 362, 370, 375  
 Holy linn, the, 99  
 Horses of Galloway, the, 319  
 Hughan, Mr, of Airds, 331  
 Hunter, William, a covenanter, death of, 16

- Husbandry, systems of, 42, 58, 95, 105, 113, 136, 165, 187, 198, 205, 221, 240, 252, 337
- Hydrography, 3, 38, 48, 99, 109, 119, 146, 179, 191, 218, 218, 224, 231, 245, 257, 266, 273, 286, 291, 347, 369, 374
- Ichthyology of Tongland, 76
- Inns and alehouses, 36, 46, 62, 107, 116, 143, 177, 189, 200, 243, 255, 264, 290, 346, 371, 385
- Ireland, Mr, improvements by, 58
- Irish, subjugation of Galloway by the, 150
- Iron mine in Rerrick, 361
- Irongray, parish of, 265
- Islands, artificial, in Kelton, 154
- Jackson, professor, birth-place of, 276
- Jameson, Rev. William, 367
- Janefield house, 25
- Johnston, Robert, bequest by, 28—William, *ib.*
- Kells, parish of, 108.
- Kelton, parish of, 144
- Ken, loch, 3, 4, 99, 108, 110, 192, 273—river, 3, 4, 108, 109, 192, 272, 282, 369
- Kenmure castle, 108, 111
- Kernadort well, 111
- Kerr, Mr, of Ardgrennan, 331
- Kilbride chapel, ruins of, 332
- Kilchrist, nunnery in, 40
- Kilhelvie house, 245, 251
- Kilns, Pictish, in Minnigaff, 130
- Kindar, loch, 244, 245
- Kinharvey house, 245, 251
- Kirkandrew's church, ruins of, 54—village, 55
- Kirkbean, parish of, 234—village of, 242
- Kirkclauch house, 382
- Kirkconnel house, 225
- Kirkcormach church, ruins of, 170
- Kirkcudbright, stewartry of, general summary of its statistics, 387—parish of, 1—town of, 30—its history, 12—ancient fortifications of, 20—castle, ruins and history of, 11, 20
- Kirkdale house, 334—old church and parish of, 313
- Kirkgunzeon, parish of, 218—loch, 246
- Kirkmabreck, parish of, 311
- Kirkpatrick muir, 256
- Kirkpatrick-Durham, parish of, 256—village of, 260
- Kirkpatrick-Irongray, parish of, 265
- Kirouchtree house, 118, 134
- Kist vaen, the, 130
- Knockman, loch, 370
- Knocknalling house, 112
- Knocksting loch, 370
- Knox, John, 328
- Lairdmannoch linn, 65
- Larg castle, ruins of, 126—hills, 314, 347
- Laurieston, village of, 187
- Lawrie, William, bequest by, 28
- Lead mines in Anwoth, 383—in Caraphairn, 274, 280—in Kirkmabreck, 318—in Minnigaff, 138
- Leases, 27, 43, 59, 93, 105, 137, 164, 187, 198, 206, 240, 257, 288, 301, 338, 383
- Lennox, Robert, of Drumruck, death of, 295—of Irelandton, 377
- Lenwick church, ruins of, 54
- Libraries and literature, 34, 62, 115, 142, 174, 188, 199, 243, 255, 272, 345, 385
- Lighthouse, Little Ross, 31
- Limestone quarries, 194
- Lincluden Abbey, ruins and history of, 232
- Little Ross, island and lighthouse of, 31, 43
- Live stock, breeds of, 27, 42, 57, 93, 105, 114, 136, 148, 187, 194, 205, 217, 219, 240, 252, 261, 270, 278, 293, 301, 318, 337, 353, 383
- Lochend, loch, 246
- Lochfergus, ruins of castle at, 20
- Lochfoot, village of, 288
- Lochinbreck, spring at, 179
- Lochinvar burn, 369—castle, ruins of, 370—loch, *ib.*
- Lochrenny, moat at, 370
- Lochrutton, parish of, 286
- Lochamsaddy, 192
- Longevity in Buittle, 201—in Kelton, 146—in Minnigaff, 118
- Lowe the poet, birth-place of, 111
- Lowran hill, 108
- Lowtis hill, 245
- Lurky Patiesthorn loch, 282
- M'Adam, Sir Loudon, birth-place of, 275—Mr, bequest by, 277, 279
- M'Aulay, Alexander, death of, 124
- M'Clement, a covenanter, 87
- M'Cubbin, Alexander, martyrdom of, 269
- M'Culloch, Sir Godfrey, 376—John Ramsay, 360—Major, of Barholme, death of, 16, 327
- M'Culloch's castle, ruins of, 238
- M'Ewen, Elspeth, death of, 16
- M'Gowan, Rev. Alexander, 372
- Machermore house, 134
- M'Kie of Larg, family of, 126—Rev. William, 185
- M'Kim, a blacksmith, forging of Mon Meg by, 157
- M'Lean, Mr, of Mark, improvements by, 338
- M'Lellan, John, 18—tutor of Bombie, murder of, 12, 156, 182—Sir William, death of, 13
- M'Lude, John, death of, 124
- M'Lurg of Machermore, family of, 126
- M'Millan, Rev. John, 184—Thomas, 33—bequest by, 28
- M'Quhan, Adam, 112
- M'Taggart, Mr, bequest by, 141
- Maitland, Adam, Esq. 358
- Manor point, ruins on, 54
- Manquhill, ruins of castle at, 371



- Manufactures**, 29, 43, 60, 93, 138, 228, 261, 302, 340, 353  
**Manxman's lake**, 31  
**Markets and Fairs**, 30, 36, 60, 116, 139, 143, 167, 177, 262, 264, 289, 303  
**Markland well**, the, 287  
**Mary, Queen**, notices of, 89, 357  
**Mary's brig**, 90  
**Mavingrove house**, 226  
**Maxwell of Stroquhan**, death of, 381—George, improvements by, 208—John, account of the ancient agriculture of Buittle by, 206—Colonel William, 377—improvements by, 163  
**Maxwelltown**, town of, 227  
**Meiklewood hill and loch**, 65  
**Menteith**, Rev. James, 55  
**Meteorology**, see *Climate*  
**Meyrick hill**, 118  
**Millcroft**, village of, 134  
**Milligan**, Dr Edward, 237  
**Milton loch**, 347—British fort at, 19  
**Mineralogy**, see *Geology*  
**Mines and Blackcraig**, village of, 134  
**Ministers of Anwoth from 1689**, 385—of *Girthon* from 1595, 308—of *Kirkcudbright* from 1689, 19—of *Kirkmabreck* from 1535, 343—of *Lochrutton* from 1638, 289—of *Urr* from 1688, 348  
**Minnigaff**, parish of, 117—village of, 134, 139  
**Mitchell**, Robert, 33  
**Moan loch**, 119  
**Moats in Borgue**, 53—in *Crossmichael*, 195—in *Dalry*, 370—in *Girthon*, 298—in *Kirkcudbright*, 23—in *Kirkpatrick-Durham*, 258—in *Minnigaff*, 128—in *Troqueer*, 227—in *Urr*, 351  
**Mochrum fell**, 282  
**Mollance house**, 197  
**Mons Meg**, forging and history of, 157  
**Montgomery**, Alexander, the poet, 39, 90  
**Monuments at Dundrennan**, 364  
**Moss of Urr**, improvement of the, 208  
**Mulloch bay**, 361—burn, 5  
**Muncraig head**, 48  
**Murder hole**, the, 131  
**Murderers' well**, tradition regarding, 216  
**Murdoch of Cumloden**, family of, 126  
**Murray's Isles**, 293  
**Murray of Broughton**, family of, 296—James, Esq. 292, 304, 375—Professor, birth-place of, 126, 348  
**Needle's-eye**, the, 215  
**Nelson**, Robert, of *Corsock*, 283  
**Netherlaw house**, 359, 365  
**New Abbey**, parish of, 244—village of, 255  
**New Galloway**, town of, 108, 112, 114  
**Newland hill**, 358  
**Nith river**, 224  
**Nithside house**, 226  
**Nunnery of Kilchrist**, 40  
**Nutwood house**, 356, 365  
**Orchardton house**, 365  
**Ornithology of Tongland**, 72  
**Orroland house**, 360, 365  
**Oswald**, Lady Mary, 242  
**Owners**, 19, 40, 56, 90, 108, 111, 128, 152, 183, 195, 205, 216, 219, 231, 238, 250, 269, 277, 283, 284, 287, 296, 323, 351, 359, 365, 371, 375  
**Palharrow burn**, 369  
**Palnackie**, village of, 211, 214  
**Palnure water**, 118, 120  
**Par**, experiments on the, 77  
**Parish registers of Kirkmabreck**, extracts from the, 325—of *Minnigaff*, 133  
**Parton**, parish of, 282  
**Paterson**, Baillie, bequest by, 255  
**Paul Jones**, birthplace of, 237—attack on *St Mary's Isle* by, 17  
**Pauperism**, see *Poor*  
**Peacock**, Rev. Patrick, 327  
**Pearl mussels found in the Dee**, 193  
**Penkill water**, 118, 119  
**Penny stone**, the, 332  
**Pebble hill**, 314—mineral spring, 317  
**Piper's cove**, the, 215  
**Plantations**, 10, 39, 43, 70, 102, 111, 123, 135, 163, 180, 195, 201, 216, 237, 247, 268, 283, 293, 323, 337, 348, 366, 369, 375  
**Plunton castle**, ruins of, 54  
**Poor**, management of the, 35, 45, 62, 97, 107, 115, 143, 176, 189, 199, 213, 217, 222, 230, 243, 255, 264, 272, 279, 286, 290, 309, 345, 353, 368, 373, 385  
**Population**, ancient condition of the, in *Kirkcudbright*, 25—returns of, 25, 41, 56, 93, 104, 112, 134, 161, 186, 197, 204, 216, 220, 227, 233, 239, 252, 259, 270, 277, 284, 288, 298, 335, 352, 366, 372, 382—language, character, &c. of, 26, 41, 56, 93, 105, 113, 162, 186, 197, 216, 221, 239, 260, 284, 299, 336, 366  
**Portmarty house**, 360, 365  
**Potato**, introduction of the, into *Galloway*, 207  
**Pow burn**, 245  
**Preston**, stone cross at, 238  
**Priory of St Mary's Isle**, the, 22  
**Prisons**, 35, 309, 346  
**Produce**, annual value of, 27, 59, 95, 106, 138, 167, 187, 241, 253, 289  
**Quarries**, granite, 210, 317, 336, 339—limestone, 194—millstone, 217—alate, 284, 370  
**Queenshill**, origin of the name of, 89  
**Raeberry castle**, ruins of, 20  
**Rainy**, Thomas, bequest by, 55  
**Regland loch**, 370  
**Rent**, rates of, 27, 42, 57, 93, 95, 113, 135, 164, 187, 198, 207, 216, 217, 239, 252, 261, 270, 284, 288, 301, 337, 366, 383

- Renwick the covenanter, 328  
 Rerrick, parish of, 354  
 Rhonehouse, village of, 146  
 Roads, bridges, &c., 30, 44, 60, 106, 114, 139, 169, 188, 198, 212, 221, 242, 253, 262, 271, 285, 306, 342, 371, 384  
 Roan loch, 192  
 Robin rig sandbank, 217  
 Robb, Rev. Alexander, 63—bequest by, 97  
 Rocking stones, in Kells, 112—in New Abbey, 247  
 Roman remains at Bombie, 20—in Buittle, 209—in Crossmichael, 195, 196—in Kelton, 153—in Kirkcudbright, 24—in Kirkpatrick-Durham, 258—in Urr, 351  
 Romans, notices of the, 10, 129, 150  
 Roegfield house, 226  
 Ross bay, 54—hill, 48  
 Rottraw tower, ruins of, 55  
 Routing bridge, the, 266  
 Rumbling well, the, 203  
 Rusco tower, ruins of, 378—house, 382  
 Rutherford, Rev. Samuel, 327, 376, 380  
 Rutherford's witnesses, tradition regarding, 380  
 Rutton loch, 286  
 Ryedale house, 226  
 St Cuthbert, 1  
 St Cuthbert's cottage, 25  
 St John's town of Dalry, village of, 371  
 St Mary's Isle, priory of, 22—house, 25  
 St Ninian's shrine, 132  
 St Querdon's well, 225  
 Salmon, experiments on the, 77—habits, &c. of, 79—various modes of fishing for, 78,—see also Fisheries  
 Saturness point, 235  
 Savings banks, 34, 175, 199, 255, 309, 368, 385  
 Schools, see Education  
 Scott, Rev. A., 103  
 Secession, origin of the, 184  
 Selkirk, Earl of, 19—improvements by, 58  
 Semple, Rev. Mr., 258, 276  
 Seven gray stones, the, 287  
 Shambelly house, 251  
 Shipping belonging to Borge, 60—to Girthon, 303—to Kirkbean, 241—to Kirkcudbright, 29—to Kirkmabreck, 341—to Palmackie, 212—to Southend, 217  
 Shoulder nets, fishing for salmon by, 81  
 Simpson, Nicholas, bequest by, 141  
 Skero loch, 292  
 Skreel hill, 145, 355  
 Skyre burn, 374  
 Slack burn, 146  
 Smith, Robert, a covenanter, death of, 16—Rev. Samuel, 103  
 Smyth, J. R., bequest by, 28  
 Societies, religious and charitable, 29, 114, 175  
 Springholm, village of, 352  
 Sproat, David, bequest by, 28  
 Stewart, Anthony, bequest by, 141—General Sir William, 127  
 Stevenson, John and Thomas, deaths of, 124  
 Stone, monumental, at Dalarran, 103  
 Stone coffins found in Kelton, 153—in Kirkcudbright, 24—in Kirkmabreck, 332, 333—in Twynholm, 39  
 Stratified granite, quarry of, 318  
 Stronfreggan water, 369  
 Summerville house, 226  
 Sweetheart abbey, remains of, 249  
 Symson, Andrew, extracts from his description of Galloway, 123, 159, 165, 204, 303, 311, 318, 374  
 Sypland, British fort at, 20  
 Tarf water, 38, 64, 65  
 Telfair, Rev. Alexander, 367  
 Terraughty house, 226  
 Terregles, parish of, 230  
 Thirl stane, the, 235  
 Thomson, Rev. James, 367  
 Thrieve castle, ruins and history of, 181—its destruction, 157  
 Tongland, parish of, 63—abbey, ruins of, 88  
 Torra, Druidical circle at, 153—cove, 6—lake, 31  
 Train, Mr. on the antiquities of Buittle, 209—of Crossmichael, 195—of Minnigaff, 130  
 Trees, remarkable, in Buittle, 202—in Minnigaff, 123  
 Trool loch, 119  
 Troqueer, parish of, 223  
 Troqueerholm house, 226  
 Tumuli in Carsphairn, 277—in Crossmichael, 195, 196—in Dalry, 370—in Kelton, 153—in Kirkmabreck, 322, 323—in Minnigaff, 128, 131—in Par-ton, 283  
 Tutor of Bombie, death of the, 12, 156, 182  
 Twynholm, parish of, 37—village of, 44  
 Urns, ancient, found in Kelton, 153—in Minnigaff, 129  
 Urquhart, captain, death of, 124  
 Urr, parish of, 247—loch, 193—river, 191, 193, 210, 211, 257, 282, 347  
 Usher, Archbishop, anecdotes of, 380  
 Verner, Rev. Thomas, 103  
 Vicars, Rev. Mr., 305  
 Vitified fort in Buittle, 203—in Southend, 216  
 Wages, rates of, 27, 57, 95, 106, 135, 163, 206, 233, 240, 252, 261, 337, 383  
 Walker, Helen, the prototype of Jeanie Deans, 269  
 Waterloo monument in New Abbey, 248

- Wedderburn, James, Esq. 19  
Welsh, Rev. John, 17, 268  
Welsh's Life of Dr Thomas Brown, 330  
White cairn of Dalry, the, 370  
Whig hole, the, 371  
Whinnyligget, Roman camp at, 20  
Whinyeon, loch, 39, 292  
White cove of Rerrick, the, 356  
Whithorn, bishop of, traditions regarding,  
334
- Wigton bay, 316, 373  
Woods, see Plantations  
Woodhall loch, 179  
Wreaths castle, ruins of, 238  
Yerrick burn, 146  
Zoology and natural history, 8, 52, 70,  
100, 110, 120, 148, 180, 194, 219, 236,  
247, 275, 287, 293, 318, 370.



WIGTON.



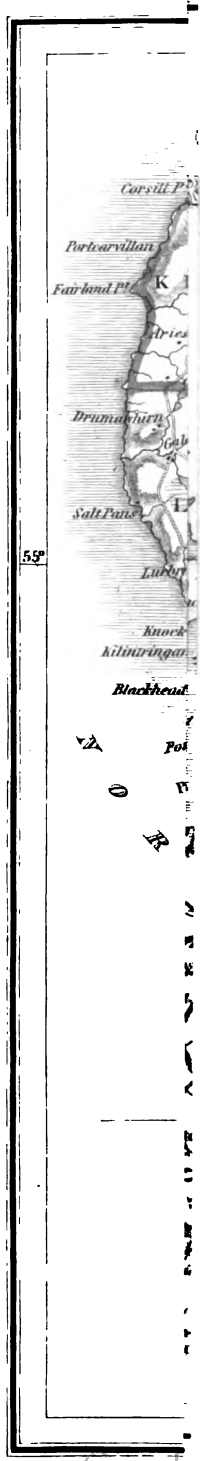
## CONTENTS.

---

	PAGE
GLASSERTON, . . . . .	36
INCH, . . . . .	80
KIRKHOLM, . . . . .	102
KIRKINNER, . . . . .	9
KIRKMAIDEN, . . . . .	<del>106</del> 199
KIRKOWAN, . . . . .	<del>100</del> 176
LESWALT, . . . . .	123
LUCE, NEW, . . . . .	76
LUCE, OLD, . . . . .	66
MOCHRUM, . . . . .	60
PENNINGHAME, . . . . .	167
PORTPATRICK, . . . . .	129
SORBIE, . . . . .	22
STONYKIRK, . . . . .	162
STRANRAER, . . . . .	94
WHITHORN, . . . . .	52
WIGTON, . . . . .	1







ON  
RE.



See also by W. H. Lucas

# PARISH OF WIGTON.

PRESBYTERY OF WIGTON, SYNOD OF GALLOWAY.

THE REV. PETER YOUNG, MINISTER.

---

## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THE name is supposed to be compounded of the Saxon words *Wic*, a village, and *Ton*, a hill, denoting the local situation of the town, which is seated on an eminence, about 200 feet above the level of the sea, commanding an extensive view of the bay of Wigton, of the stewartry of Kirkcudbright, of the distant hills of Cumberland, and of the Isle of Man. The hill on which the town is situated contains about 200 acres of arable land of the best quality, not surpassed by any hill of the same extent in the south of Scotland. Wigton was made a royal burgh in the reign of David II. This honour was probably conferred on it in the year 1341, when it was established as the chief town of the earldom or county of Wigton, conferred on Sir Malcolm Fleming; whence the noble family of Wigton. The title became extinct in 1747, having terminated in a female.

*Extent and Boundaries.*—The parish, which is between five and 6 miles long, and about 4 miles broad, is supposed to contain about 5500 acres. It is bounded on the south by the river Bladenoch, which separates it from the parish of Kirkcubright; on the west, by a small rivulet and a morass, dividing it from the parish of Penninghame; on the north, by the Bishop Burn, which runs between it and the last mentioned parish; and on the east, by the bay of Wigton and the Frith of Cree.

*Geology.*—The rocks in this parish belong to the transition class, chiefly greywacke and greywacke slate.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Land-owners.*—The chief land-owners are, the Earl of Galloway; Stewart of Physgill; M' Culloch of Torhouse; Hagart of Torhousekie; and M'Haffie of Torhousemuir.

The borough of Wigton has also a considerable property in the parish, and there are several smaller proprietors who possess por-

tions of land, called borough-acres, most of whom reside in the town or neighbourhood.

*Parochial Registers.*—The earliest bears date 1701, and is brought down to 1740. After this period, it has been irregularly kept, and much neglected until 1800.

*Antiquities.*—One of the most remarkable monuments of antiquity in the parish is the Standing Stones of Torhouse. It is one of those circles of large stones supposed by some to be the remains of Druidic temples, by others courts of justice, and reckoned by not a few to mark the spot where a battle has been fought, and where the chiefs have been slain and buried. The stones are nineteen in number, and of unpolished granite. "In the highway betwixt Wigton and Port-Patrick," says Symson in his *Description of Galloway*, written in 1684, "about three miles westward of Wigton, is a plaine, called the 'Moor of Standing Stones of Torhouse,' in which there is a monument of three large whinstones, (called King Galdus's Tomb,) surrounded, at about twelve feet distance, with nineteen considerable great stones, (but none of them so great as the three first mentioned) erected in a circumference." This opinion, which has obtained the sanction of the celebrated antiquarian, Sir Robert Sibbald, of Timothy Pont, seems the most probable, if not altogether certain, (See his "Galloway Typographized,") and other writers. As these Standing Stones are supposed to constitute a monument to the memory of Galdus, King of the Scots, who conquered the province from the Romans, so there are several heaps of small stones in the neighbourhood, called Cairns, alleged to mark the burial-place of the common soldiers. There are also several single stones of considerable size erected at different spots in the vicinity, which are regarded as indicating the tombs of the commanders and persons of note that fell in the engagement. (*Sibbald's MSS. Adv. Lib. Jac. 5th l. 4.*)

Of the Castle of Wigton, which was built as early at least as the middle of the thirteenth century, scarcely any traces can now be found. It is understood to have been situated on the banks of the Bladenoch, south of the town, at a place where in ancient times that river fell into the bay. The fosse is quite discernible; and though the foundation of the walls cannot be traced, mortar and other remains, indicative of an ancient building, are still to be observed. So important was this castle, that it was delivered in 1291 into the hands of Edward I., till the claims of the different competitors for the crown were decided. He entrusted it to the

charge of Walter de Currie, (Laird of Dunskey,) and successively of others, and ultimately conferred it on John Baliol as the Scottish King.

Wigton was the site of a monastery, founded in 1267, for Dominican or Black Friars by Dervorgille, daughter of Alan, last of the provincial Lords of Galloway, and mother of John Baliol, King of Scotland. This monastery never attained to eminence. (Murray's *Literary History of Galloway*, 2d ed. 1832.) It was situated on the east of the burgh, terminating on an abrupt ridge overlooking the bay, but no remains of it can now be traced. There was a large cemetery connected with it, where, within these sixty years, bones and other sepulchral remains have been dug up. Even in 1684, when Symson wrote, "the very ruins thereof are now almost ruined."

In the present churchyard, there is an interesting monument erected to the memory of two female martyrs, who, on the 11th May 1685, were tied to a stake within the flood-mark, at the mouth of the Bladenoch, near Wigton, and drowned, for not abjuring Presbytery and the National Covenant, and not conforming to Prelacy. They were Margaret Wilson, (aged 18,) daughter of Gilbert Wilson, farmer in Glenvernock, parish of Penningham, and Margaret M'Lauchlan, (aged 63,) widow of John Milligan, wright in Drumjargan, parish of Kirkinner. A younger sister of Wilson was also condemned at the same time, but, owing to her tender age, (being only 13 years old,) she was liberated, her father having given a bond of L. 100 Scots that he would produce her when called. The three were tried at Wigton before Sir Robert Grierson of Lagg, Colonel David Graham, (brother to the famous Claverhouse,) Major Windram, and Captain Strachan; persons nominated by the King as a commission to try non-conformists, with power of life or death. (Wodrow's *Church History*, Vol. iv. p. 6.) Coltrou, Provost of Wigton, acted as a constituent member of the commission, (*ib.* p. 248.) The barbarous sentence to which we have referred was carried into effect on Margaret Wilson and Margaret M'Lauchlan; Major Windram with some soldiers guarding them to the place of execution. The stake to which M'Lauchlan, the elder prisoner, was tied, being a good way beyond the other, she died first. When the water was nearly covering the younger martyr, she was asked by Windram's order, if she would pray for the King. Knowing that an answer in the affirmative would be equivalent to a renouncement of her

sentiments and a violation of her conscience, she replied, "she wished the salvation of all men, and the damnation of none." One of the spectators, deeply affected with the death of the one martyr, and the approaching dissolution of the other, said, "Dear Margaret, say, God save the King,—say, God save the King." With the greatest firmness and presence of mind, she immediately replied, "God save him if he will, for it is his salvation I desire." These words were not regarded by Windram explicit enough; and though the heroic Christian martyr was again tried to recant, she mildly but firmly refused. "Upon which," says Wodrow, (*ib.*) "she was thrust down again into the water, where she finished her course with joy."

At what time the monument to the memory of these two "faithful witnesses" was erected in the church-yard of Wigton cannot be ascertained. But from the orthography and style of the inscription, it must have been soon after the Revolution. The inscription is subjoined.

"Here lyse Margrat Wilson, Doughter to Gilbert Wilson in Glenvernach, who was drowned Anno 1685, aged 18."\*

"Here lys Margrat M'Lauchlan, who was by unjust law condemned to die by Lagg, Strachan, Winram and Grahame, ty'd to a stake within the flood for her adherence to Scotland's reformation and national and solem league, aged 63."

There is another martyr's tomb in this church-yard. This tomb is to the memory of three individuals belonging to the parish of Penninghame,—William Johnston, gardener to the Laird of Fintilloch, John Milroy, chapman, living at Fintilloch, and George Walker, servant in Kirkauly, who being brought to Wigton, and not answering satisfactorily the question put to them by Windram, particularly refusing to attend the ministry of the curate, were, without an assize or trial, caused to be publicly executed next day. The inscription on their monument is subjoined.†

\* Let earth and stone still witness beare,  
Thir lys a Virgine martyre here,  
Murther'd for owning Christ Supream  
Head of his Church, and no more crime,  
But not abjuring Presbytry.  
And her not owning Prelacy.  
Of Heaven nor Hell, they stood no awe;  
Within the sea, ty'd to a stake,  
She suffered for Christ Jesus' sake.  
The actors of this cruel crime  
Was Lagg, Strachan, Winram and Gbrame;  
Neither young years, nor old age  
Could stop the fury of their rage.

† Here lys William Johnston, John Milroy, and George Walker, who was, with-

## III.—POPULATION.

In 1801,	-	1475	
1811,	-	1711	
1821,	-	2042	
1831,	-	2387	
The yearly average of births for the last seven years is	-	-	50
marriages,	-	-	14
The number of families in the parish is	-	-	508
chiefly employed in agriculture,	-	-	118
in trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	-	-	178

There are seven proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50, and upwards.

There are 3 fatuous, and 4 blind persons in the parish.

*Character of the People.*—The inhabitants, with the exception of the Irish settlers, are nearly all natives either of the burgh or county. The names of families that are still most prevalent in Wigton, such as M'Kinnell, M'Kie, &c., were the predominant names so early as the year 1495. (MS. Advocates' Library, Jac. V. 8. 8.) The condition of the people has been greatly improved since the time of the last Statistical Account. They are now more cleanly in their habits, more comfortably lodged, and in consequence of a more easy communication, and of a more frequent intercourse with other districts of the country, both their diet and their dress are of a better description. Of the moral character of the inhabitants of this parish, a favourable account may justly be given. They are, in general, intelligent and well informed. They have access, upon moderate terms, to a well-selected subscription library, established in 1794. With the progress of society, and the more extensive diffusion of knowledge, their morality has also kept pace. Their attendance upon the ordinances of religion is devout and exemplary, and, upon the whole, their habits are regular and temperate. When cases of distress occur, they uniformly evince a liberal and benevolent spirit.

## IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—Since the time of the last Statistical Account much additional ground has been brought into cultivation, and new and improved modes of husbandry have been adopted. The number of acres in the parish, cultivated and uncultivated, the writer cannot precisely ascertain.

*Produce.*—The following table gives a near computation for the year 1833, of the produce of this parish, the rental of which is about L. 4500.

out sentence of law, hanged by Major Winram, for their adherence to Scotland's reformation, covenants, and national solem league, 1685."





free rectory, of which the King was patron. There is a manuscript in the Advocates' Library, (Jac. V. 8. 8,) in which a donation is mentioned (in the year 1495,) from William M'Garvey, vicar of Penningham, of various houses and crofts in or near the burgh, (which are minutely described,) to support "a chaplain in St Machutus in Wigtown." The celebrated Sir Peter Young, the co-preceptor with Buchanan of James VI. for some time held the rectory of Wigton *in commendam*. At what time the present church was built, we have not ascertained. It is an old mean-looking edifice, and has so frequently been repaired that little of the ancient building remains. It is situated in a beautiful retired spot at the east end of the town, and at the extremity of the parish. The stipend is 18 chalders, half meal, half barley, and L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements. There is no manse, but L. 30 per annum is allowed for a house rent, one-half of which is paid by the heritors, and the other by the burgh. The glebe contains 7 acres, and is worth about L. 21 per annum.

There is also a meeting-house of the General Associate Synod, in which there is accommodation for about 600 sitters. At an election of a pastor lately, about 120 members were found qualified to vote. The number of Dissenting and Seceding families in the parish is about 66. The number of families attending the Established Church about 240; the number of Roman Catholic families about 25.

*Education.*—There is an excellent grammar-school in this town, conducted by an able teacher and assistant. The emolument arising from salary and school-fees is upwards of L. 100 per annum. The number of scholars is from 80 to 100. The usual branches of education are taught, viz. English, Latin, Greek, French, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, and mathematics. Besides the public schools, there are two unendowed schools, whose teachers depend upon the school fees. There are also two Sunday schools, attended by nearly 300 children. The total number of scholars attending schools in the parish is about 450.

*Banks.*—The Bank of Scotland first opened a branch in Wigton in 1784. There are now a branch of the British Linen Company, and a private bank.

*Charitable Institutions.*—A Friendly Society was instituted here in 1795. The terms of admission are 10s. 6d. from the age of 18 until 25. From 25 until 40, 6d. more for every year of their age above 25; and no person after the age of 40 is admitted.

The monthly contribution is 7d. No member is admitted to the superannuated list so long as he is able to work. Those on the sick list are allowed 4s. per week for the first three months, 3s. for the next three months, and afterwards 2s. per week; and they are still liable to pay the monthly contributions. The sum of L. 4 is allowed for the funeral of each member, or they may draw L. 2 of the above sum when the wife dies. The funds at interest are L. 600. More than a third part of the members reside in the parish. To prevent the funds from being dilapidated, they have agreed that every person alimented shall submit to a rateable reduction if necessary. The funds have hitherto been equal to the demand. This institution has obvious and undoubted advantages. It encourages a spirit of independence, and stimulates to industry, and prevents many from becoming a burden upon the community.

*Poor.*—The average number of poor upon the roll in the year 1837 was 34, and the total amount applied was L. 96. The church collections average for the last three years L. 52, 6s. 2d. per annum. There is no assessment, but a voluntary contribution by the heritors for some years averaged L. 72, 6s. 8d., and L. 7 more were received from other parties. The amount from a mortified sum of L. 600 is L. 24 annually. The number of poor receiving occasional relief is 14, and the amount applied to them is L. 60.

The great influx of Irish labourers and vagrants into this district operates heavily upon the poor's funds, and there is little prospect of that evil being corrected, while there is no legal provision for the indigent in that country.

*Prisons.*—The prison has long been complained of as insecure and unhealthy. An addition and considerable repairs have been for some time past in contemplation.

*Fairs.*—There are five in the course of the year; but there is little or no business done in them, and they are now fallen into complete neglect.

*Fuel.*—The parish is well supplied with fuel—both with peats from a neighbouring moss, and with excellent coals, at a moderate price, from Whitehaven.

*Revised January 1839.*

## PARISH OF KIRKINNER.

PRESBYTERY OF WIGTON, SYNOD OF GALLOWAY.

THE REV. JAMES REID, MINISTER.

---

### L.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THE popular tradition respecting the name of the parish is as follows. In former times, the parish of Kirkinner included in it what now forms the parish of Kirkcowan. The clergyman preached two Sundays at the church in the southern part of the parish, and the next in another place of worship, in the northern part of it. In those days, the one was distinguished as the Inner Kirk, hence the name Kirkinner; the other was called the Outer Kirk, which in course of time was changed into Kirk-cowan, and now forms the parish of that name. Chalmers, in his *Caledonia*, however, gives a very different account of the matter. He tells us, that the ancient church of Kirkinner was consecrated to Saint Kenneir, Virgin and Martyr, who suffered martyrdom at Cologne, October 29th 450. Hence the name of the parish Kirkinner. This church was granted by Edward Bruce, the Lord of Galloway, to the prior and canons of Whithorn, and the grant was confirmed by King Robert I. In the charter it is called the church of Saint Kenere of Carnesmoel. This seems to have been the name of a barony, for we learn from Chalmers that, “before the demise of David II., the Earl of Wigton resigned his whole earldom into the King’s hands, except the barony of Carnesmull, and that after the accession of Robert II. this resignation was repeated and accepted; whereupon the King, in April 1372, granted a charter to Sir James Lindsay, for the earldom, as the same had been held by the first earl, except the four pleas of the crown, and the barony of Carnesmull. Kirkinner formed the benefice of the subdean of the chapel royal. In Bagimont’s roll, as it stood in the reign of James V., Kirkinner was taxed L. 26, 13s. 4d. being a tenth of the estimated value. This was the highest of any parochial benefice in Wigtonshire. In 1591, James VI. granted the patronage of this

church to Sir Patrick Vans of Barnbarroch, and this grant was ratified by Parliament in June 1592."

Kirkinner now consists of the united parishes of Kirkinner and Longcastle. Longcaster or Longcastle parish obtained its name from an ancient castle, the ruins of which are still extant on a small island in a lake called Longcastle Loch. The name appears to have been written Longcaster, at the epoch of the Reformation. The church was then a rectory. Longcastle continued to be a separate parish in 1630, but, being of small extent, it was annexed to the adjacent parish of Kirkinner about the middle of the seventeenth century. It forms the south-west corner of the united parish.

*Extent and Boundaries.*—The mean length of the parish is about 5 miles; its mean breadth about  $4\frac{1}{2}$ ; it contains nearly 24 square miles. It is bounded on the north and north-west, by the parishes of Wigton, Penningham, and Kirkcowan; on the west, by Mochrum; on the south-west, by Glasserton; on the south, by Sorbie; on the east and north-east, by the Bay of Wigton. It may be compared to a section of a pyramid, the base running nearly from north to south, and the top lying along the bay of Wigton.

*Topographical Appearance.*—In appearance, the country is hilly, but cannot be termed mountainous. With the exception of what are called the low lands, the greater part of the parish consists of gently swelling little hills, which, covered with rich verdure, or crowned with plantation, give a pleasing variety to the prospect. Standing on the top of one of these elevations, you may count a dozen others, all rising around; but none of them are of great height above the level of the sea.

The extent of coast along the bay of Wigton is about 3 miles; the shore is flat, of a deep clay soil.

*Meteorology.*—Temperature of the atmosphere for the last two years and a half, taken at Low Balfern, nearly on a level with the bay of Wigton. The calculations are made twice a day, in summer at five o'clock in the morning, in winter at sunrise, and every day at two o'clock afternoon.

	1829.	1830.	1831.
January,	$34\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$	$35^{\circ}$	$35\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$
February,	42	$36\frac{1}{2}$	$39\frac{1}{2}$
March,	$40\frac{1}{2}$	$43\frac{1}{2}$	$48\frac{1}{2}$
April,	$44\frac{1}{2}$	$46\frac{1}{2}$	$47\frac{1}{2}$
May,	$55\frac{1}{2}$	$51\frac{1}{2}$	$58\frac{1}{2}$
June	$58\frac{1}{2}$	54	59
July,	59	59	—46 $\frac{1}{2}$

August,	56½	54½
September,	52½	52½
October,	48½	51½
November,	43½	45
December,	34½	37
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	47½	47½

Rain falls often, and in considerable quantities, but it seldom rains a whole day without intermission. The prevailing winds are the south and south-west. Our severest storms of rain, wind, and snow, are from the south-east. We have sometimes a heavy gale from the north-west, but it seldom lasts long, and commonly falls in the evening,—hence the saying common in the country, “that an honest man, and a north-west wind, generally go to sleep together.”

The climate, when compared with that of the north-western counties of Scotland, may be considered rather dry than moist. Before the low lands were drained, the people who lived on them were often affected with ague, but the parish is now very healthy. Alexander M'Credie died, in 1824, at the very advanced age of 108.

*Hydrography.*—The parish is bounded on the east for about three miles by the bay of Wigton, which separates it from the parish of Kirkmabreck in the stewartry of Kirkcudbright. At full-tide the bay is 7 or 8 miles in width. The tide also flows up the water of Bladenoch for about two miles. There is a mineral spring on the estate of Barnbarroch, which is often used by the inhabitants for stomach complaints. It was formerly considered to be of great use in curing the ague. Another spring of a similar nature has lately been discovered on the same estate. They seem both to be impregnated with iron. The parish in general, but particularly about the church, is celebrated for numerous and copious springs of soft and light water, which must contribute much to the health of the inhabitants. On the south-west side of the parish lies the lake or loch of Dowalton, called also Ravenston and Longcastle. It is about two miles long, by one and a-half broad. It contains two small islands, both on the Kirkiner side.

The river Bladenoch forms the boundary of the parish for many miles. It takes its rise in Loch Mabearée, on the borders of Ayrshire, receives the tributary streams of Malzie and Mild-riggen in this parish, and, after a winding course of about twenty miles, falls into the bay of Wigton, near that town.

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—The soil is in general gravelly, and

the subsoil of the same nature. The low lands of Baldoon are an extensive tract of alluvial soil, evidently formed of substances carried down by the river, and thrown back by the tide, mixed with clay, shells, and sand. In winter, after a strong south-easterly wind, immense quantities of cockle shells are thrown up by the tide. These are often used as manure by the farmers, and when burnt they furnish the only lime which the country affords. It is reckoned whiter for plaster, and also of a more binding nature for building and rough-cast than the common lime, which is imported from England. There is not much moss in the parish, and it contains no mines whatever. Good stones for building are very scarce. The stratified rocks in this parish belong to the transition series: the only granite it contains is found in single stones, and these are now seldom to be met with.

*Zoology.*—Many years ago, there were found in the moss of Airies, a pair of immense horns, the tips of which are said to have been six feet separate from each other. These must have belonged to some animal now unknown here.

Salmon, trout, and spirlings are found in the Bladenoch. The loch of Dowalton or Longcastle contains pike and perch, and flounders are sometimes caught along the shore of the bay of Wigton.

*Trees.*—Most kinds of forest trees seem to thrive well. The beech, the ash, the plane, and the Huntingdon willow attain to a great size.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

There is an ancient account of the parish in a work by Andrew Symson, minister of Kirkinner, 1684. It is entitled "A large Description of Galloway." A few copies have lately been printed from the manuscript in the Advocates' Library.—Mr Symson was Episcopal minister of this parish from 1663 to 1686, when the state of the times obliged him to leave it. He afterwards became a printer in Edinburgh, and died in 1712. He was the author of several poetical works. (Vide *Life* prefixed to his *Large Description of Galloway*: also Murray's *Literary History of Galloway*, 2d edit. 1832.)

The family of Barnbarroch have given two bishops to Galloway. Alexander Vaux was consecrated Bishop of Galloway some time before the year 1426. His name is mentioned by Rymer, and Boyce terms him a learned man, and of noble extraction. In 1429, he was appointed by James I. one of the preservers of the peace on the borders of Scotland; and he is said to have contributed

much to the overthrow of the then all-powerful family of Douglas.—George Vaux, cousin to Alexander, was also Bishop of Galloway. It was during the time of this prelate that James III. having founded a chapel-royal at Stirling, annexed it to the Bishoprick of Galloway. Sir Patrick Vaux of Barnbarroch was ambassador to Denmark in the time of James VI., and a Lord of Session.

The inhabitants of this parish seem to have had their full share of trouble and distress in the days of persecution. From the session record, April 15th 1711, we learn that the minister gave in the account of the sufferings of honest, godly people in the late times, which was read, and is as follows : “ Margaret Lauchlison, of known integrity and piety from her youth, aged about eighty, widow of John Millikin, wright in Drumjargan, was, in or about the year 1685, in her own house, taken off her knees in prayer, and carried immediately to prison, and from one prison to another, without the benefit of light to read the Scripture ; was barbarously treated by dragoons, who were sent to carry her from Machirwood to Wigtoun, and being sentenced by Sir Robert Grier of Lagg to be drowned at a stake within the flood-mark, just below the town of Wigtoun, for conventicle-keeping, and alleged rebellion, was, according to the said sentence, fixed to the stake till the tide made, and held down within the water, by one of the town-officers by his halbert at her throat, till she died.

“ Her husband, John Millikin, when he lived in Killeal, being frequently quartered on by the soldiers, was obliged to pay to six of them eight shillings Scots to each man, ilk day, for a considerable time, and afterwards was carried prisoner to Dumfries, where he was fined in a considerable sum.

“ Andrew M‘Cubbin and his spouse Elizabeth Millikin, daughter to the said John Millikin and Margaret Lauchlison, about 1685, were stript of all their goods, had all their household furniture burnt to ashes by the dragoons, and themselves and their small children banished from house and hold.

“ Alexander Vaux of Barwhannie, brother-german to John Vaux of Barnbarroch, and Margaret Maxwell, his lady, (who afterwards became Laird and Lady of Barnbarroch,) from 1666 to 1689, the time of the late happy revolution, were harassed, processed, and fined, though there was nothing could be laid to their charge, but that they would not comply with the times, and did resett godly people and ministers.

“ William Sprot in Clutoch being, about 1685, obliged to leave his own house to shun persecution and went to Portpatrick on his way to Ireland, and then at Portpatrick was apprehended and brought back on his feet betwixt two dragoons, exactly by his own house-door to Wigtoun prison; his wife being big with child, followed him to the said prison, when she saw him laid on his back, in the cold prison, put in the irons, his ears cut off, his fingers burnt by fiery matches; and afterwards he was sentenced to be banished to America, and in his voyage thither he died. He was a person eminent for piety. His poor wife for grief miscarried of her child.

“ John Stuart in Kirkbien, about anno 1685, of known piety, was stript of all his goods and gear.

“ William Kerr in Borland, anno 1685, was imprisoned with the said Margaret Lauchlison, and made his escape.

“ John Dunn in Stewartown, about the year 1685, of singular piety, was imprisoned and banished, and in his voyage died at sea; and Janet Dunn, his daughter, was carried prisoner to Glasgow, and before she was carried there, had her fingers burnt with fiery matches, and wedged into wimble bores.

“ Margaret Maxwell, servitrix to Alexander Vaux of Barwhannie was imprisoned at Wigtoun about 1685, and scourged there three several times by the hand of the common hangman, and afterwards carried prisoner to Glasgow, in order to banishment.

“ Margaret Middinel, about the same time imprisoned; she lived in the Meikle Airies.

“ Agnes M'Culloch, in Stewartown, spouse to Anthony Hathorn, was fined in two or three hundred merks.

“ John M'Reikie, in Newton, about the same time was fined.

“ Andrew Martin of Little Airies, about the year 1679, was declared a rebel for going to Bothwell, was forfeited, his house frequently plundered, his corns eaten up by dragoons and their horses, till his wife, Margaret Kennedy, who remained in his house for some years after the forfeiture, was necessit to forbear manureing the ground, in regard that the product was still an errand for the soldiers to come there, she could preserve no stock, save some few sheep, for want of fodder. There was no way left to the said Margaret Kennedy to support herself and children, but by improving the wool and milk of the sheep, which was all they had to subsist on for years. But she refusing to take the oath of abjuration, and other oaths then generally imposed on men and



women in their bounds, through the malice and cruelty of those that were in public place, was taken prisoner, and through prudence escaping, was obliged to abscond herself, in regard there was much searching for her in order to get her again apprehended, so that she was obliged to flee from both husband and children: her house being waste for several years, turned ruinous; her sheep were all carried away, killed and eaten by the Earl of Hume's regiment. The search after these was so accurate, that many hundreds of oaths were taken anent the said Andrew and his spouse, so that they were obliged to more close hiding, until King James' toleration.

“ Mistress May Dunbar, second daughter to Sir David Dunbar of Baldoon, of known piety all her life, was forced to abscond and leave her father's house, and live for some time here and there, frequently in herds' houses, where she could not be accommodated according to her birth and rank. One day she very providentially and narrowly escaped the enemy's fury at the Caldons, about the year 1685.”

*Land-owners.*—The Earl of Galloway possesses one-half of the parish, known as the estate of Baldoon. The chief of the other proprietors are, Colonel Vans Agnew of Barnbarroch; Sir William Maxwell, Bart. of Monrieth, who possesses the barony of Longcastle; and James Blair, Esq. of Penninghame, who possesses the estate of Dalreagle.

*Parochial Registers.*—The earliest birth recorded in the parochial register is August 27th 1694. At times the register seems to have been very ill kept, as in some years there are very few names inserted.

The marriage earliest recorded is November 22, 1694. This record continues to July 13, 1742; but there seems to have been none kept from that date till the year 1779.

*Antiquities.*—In former times, at a place called Cairnfield, there was a monument resembling that called Galdus' tomb, in the parish of Wigton. It consisted of a circle of standing-stones, with one in the centre. These, however, have long since been removed to make way for the plough. The ruins of the ancient chapel of Longcastle are still to be seen in the parish of that name, about half a mile from the castle. The vestiges of two circular camps may be traced, but there is no tradition connected with them. Ancient coins have, at different times, been turned up by the plough in the farm of Barness. On Cairnfield, already alluded to, a large cairn of stones being removed to build fences, there

was found a collection of half-burnt human bones, in an oblong space, formed of stones set on edge, and covered with a flat stone on the top, but there was no inscription. In 1789, an urn and some bones, partly consumed by fire, were discovered in the same place.

The old castle of Baldoon has now become celebrated in romance;—an incident that occurred within its walls having furnished Sir Walter Scott with the tragic subject which he has wrought into the tale of the *Bride of Lammermoor*. (Vide Introduction to that tale, last edition; also Symson's *Elegies*, appended to his *Description of Galloway*.)

*Modern Buildings*.—The only modern building in the parish of any note is Barnbarroch House, the seat of Colonel Vans Agnew.

*Dunbars of Baldoon*.—The family of Dunbar of Baldoon was founded in the beginning of the sixteenth century, by Archibald Dunbar, a younger son of the Knight of Mochrum. The Baldoon branch continued in the parish for about two centuries, and ultimately ended in a female, Mary, heiress of Sir David Dunbar. This young lady married Lord Basil Hamilton, sixth son of the Duke of Hamilton. His Lordship, having been drowned while crossing the Minnoch, a small stream in the stewardry of Kirkcudbright, was succeeded by his son, Basil Hamilton. On the death of the latter in 1742, Dunbar Hamilton succeeded him, and two years afterwards, on the death of his grand-uncle, the Earl of Selkirk, fell heir to his title and estates; on this occasion, he assumed the name of Douglas. The Dunbars of Baldoon are now, therefore, represented by the noble family of Selkirk. The estate of Baldoon remained in the family till 1793, when it was sold to the Earl of Galloway. (*Murray's Literary Hist. of Galloway*, 2d edit. 1832, p. 305–8.)

### III.—POPULATION.

Of the state of population in ancient times little is known. Some have imagined that, as there are the remains of many old steadings in the parish, the population must at one time have been greater than it is at present. It appears from the synod record, that, in the year 1697, the number of examinable persons was 500; the population at that time, therefore, must have been about 1000.

According to Dr Webster's returns, it was	792
In 1801, it was,	1160
1811,	1433
1821,	1488
1831, males, 729; females, 785,	1514
Increase during the last ten years	26 only.

To account for this, it may be sufficient to observe, that a great

number of our young men go to England, where they are engaged in the tea trade and other branches of business; and that many of the young women go out as servants to Edinburgh, but particularly to Glasgow and Paisley.

Population residing in villages, in the country,	300 1214
	1514

The Seceders and Roman Catholics do not in general insert the births of their children in the parish register, but, calculating them at the same rate with the rest of the parishioners, the average of births for the last seven years will be about 40.

There is no register of deaths kept in the parish, but the number annually is about 16.

The average number of persons under 15 years of age,	647
between 15 and 30,	358
30 and 50,	290
50 and 70,	174
upwards of 70,	45
	1514

There are no noblemen residing in the parish. There is one family of independent fortune.

The number of proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards is	9
unmarried men and bachelors above 50,	24
women above 45,	68
Number of families,	283
engaged in agriculture,	132
in trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	39
Average number of children in each family,	4
Number of inhabited houses,	261
uninhabited and building,	7

There are at present none insane, blind, deaf or dumb; 1 fatuous.

Number of illegitimate births within the last three years, 12.

The native Scots are cleanly in their habits, the Irish part of the population less so. There is nothing peculiar in their style or manner of dress, but they in general dress well. Their ordinary food is porridge and milk to breakfast, broth with bacon and potatoes or oat-cake to dinner, and porridge or beat potatoes to supper. In Symson's time the people seem to have been remarkable for their love of tobacco. It is still in pretty general use, but not more so than in other parts of the county. The Irish population live mostly on potatoes and milk or salt herrings.

The farmers enjoy all the comforts and luxuries that are to be met with in the same class elsewhere; but I doubt much whether the comforts of the people are increasing. Irish labourers can subsist on much less than the Scotch; and, in all cases of competition for work, are sure to underbid them,—hence the wages are lower than they otherwise would have been, and the labouring-class

are obliged to deny themselves some comforts they might otherwise have enjoyed. On the whole, however, they are contented with their situation and circumstances.

The people are in general a shrewd, thinking race; they are fond of reading, and there are very few of them that are not possessed of a small collection of books, of which at their leisure hours they seem to make a good use. Some of them are really well-informed. With very few exceptions, they are sober and honest, and attentive to their religious duties.

There is neither poaching nor smuggling amongst us.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—The parish contains about 15,000 imperial acres, of which about 13,500 are or have been occasionally in tillage. The remaining 1500 acres consist partly of moss, (a considerable portion of which is now, by paring and burning, made to produce good crops,) partly of broken rocky pasture land, and the rest of upwards of 300 acres in wood. There is no land in the parish which can be termed waste; neither is there any undivided common. There is no natural wood, and the proprietors seem to me to take sufficient care of their plantations.

*Rent.*—The rent of the land varies from L. 2, 10s. to 8s.; the average may be nearly L. 1 per imperial acre. The average rate of grazing may be about L. 3 per ox or cow, and from 12s. to 15s. for a sheep.

*Wages.*—Labourers in summer have about 1s. 6d., in winter 1s. 4d.; masons and carpenters have about 2s. 6d. per day. The wages of men-servants living in the farm-houses vary from L. 4 to L. 6, per half-year; women-servants receive from L. 2 to L. 3, 10s. Cottagers are paid partly in money and partly in what is termed a benefit. This consists of a house, garden, and fuel, as much meal and potatoes as are thought necessary for the maintenance of their families, and sometimes pasture for a cow and a sheep, amounting in whole to from L. 26 to L. 30 per annum. The price of the different articles of raw produce is regulated chiefly by the Liverpool markets, to which there is ready access by means of steam navigation. The breeding of sheep is not carried on to any great extent, the attention of the farmers being directed to the improvement of the far-famed breed of black-cattle, known by the name of Galloways.

The general system of agriculture pursued on the dry land is white and green crops alternately. If the farmer finds that he

will require more manure than his farm can supply, he makes up the deficiency with bone dust; he consumes part of his turnip in the yard, and the rest are fed off on the field with sheep. The land is then sown out with oats or barley, and grass seeds. On the clay lands of Baldoon (the Carse of Gowrie of Galloway,) the farms are large and beautiful, and they are managed in a very superior style. The farmers adopt the most approved modes of husbandry; their lands are in the highest state of improvement, and their wheat crops are excelled by no district in Scotland. The late Sir Alexander Muir Mackenzie irrigated an extensive meadow on his estate of Dalreagle, since sold to James Blair, Esq.; but it does not seem to have answered his expectations. Leases are usually granted for nineteen years, though of late many farms have been let for seven, nine, or thirteen years.

The farm-steadings are in general good; many of them very superior. The fields are commonly divided by thorn hedges or stone dikes. The proprietors seem anxious to promote improvements on their respective estates, and are disposed to encourage enterprising tenants.

*Live-Stock.*—The black-cattle generally reared in the parish are what are termed the Galloway breed. There are very few sheep kept by the farmers. They purchase large quantities of Highland sheep at Falkirk, and feed them off on turnip during winter and spring. A great quantity of black-cattle are now fattened for the Liverpool markets.

*Produce.*—On an average, there are produced in the parish as follows:

10,000 bushels of wheat, at 7s. per bushel,	-	-	-	L. 3,500
2000 acres oats, at L. 5 per acre,	-	-	-	10,000
200 do. barley, - 7 do.	-	-	-	1,400
300 do. potatoes, - 6 do.	-	-	-	1,800
300 do. turnip, - 5 do.	-	-	-	1,500
800 do. hay, - 2 do.	-	-	-	1,600
2000 head of cattle, at L. 7 each,	-	-	-	14,000
				<u>L. 33,800</u>

There are a few hands employed in linen weaving, and one damask weaver.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Town.*—The nearest market-town is Wigton, distant about three miles. There is a penny-post daily. The port for shipping is Wigton. There is a small harbour at Baldoon, which is very useful to the parish for grain and coals.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church is situated towards the east-

ern side of the parish, and on that account is a considerable distance, about six miles, from a part of the population. It was built in 1828, and is a very handsome commodious building. It affords accommodation for upwards of 600 people. There are a few free sittings allotted to the poor of the parish. The only benefaction on record is the sum of L. 30, left by the late Sir William Maxwell of Monrieth. The manse was built in 1820. The glebe consists of about 10 acres, mostly of a light gravelly soil. The yearly value may be about L. 20. The stipend is 16 chalders, half meal, half barley, and L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements. There are 205 families belonging to the Established Church, consisting of about 1100 persons; there are 55 families of Dissenters, most of whom attend a meeting-house in Wigton; and there are 23 families of Roman Catholics. There is at present a Catholic chapel building at Newtonstewart, in the neighbouring parish of Penninghame. There are upwards of 300 communicants in the Established Church, and in general divine service is well attended. Collections are seldom made except for the poor, and these on an average of the last seven years amount to L. 25 per annum.

*Education.*—There are at present 4 schools in the parish, the parochial school, and three private schools. The parish schoolmaster has the maximum salary, L. 34, 4s. 4d. a-year, and his fees may amount to about L. 30. He has the legal accommodation. All the usual branches of education are taught; and at a very low rate. English reading and grammar, 8d. per month; writing, 10d; arithmetic and geography, 1s.; Latin and Greek, 1s. 8d.; and French, 2s. 6d. There are very few children in the parish who cannot read and write. Many of the Irish part of the population can do neither, but they in general send their children to school, and the people seem alive to the benefit of education. The school-house, the best in the country, stands near the church. I consider four schools, one a female school, perfectly sufficient for the parish. The scholars attending the public school have the benefit of a small library.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The average number on the poor's roll for the last seven years is 22, and the average sum allotted to each is about L. 3. But besides these regular paupers, there are a number of persons in the parish who stand in need of occasional aid, which on an average may amount to about L. 15 a year. The annual expenditure thus amounts to L. 81, which is pro-

vided for as follows : Average annual collections at church doors, L. 25; voluntary contribution by the heritors, L. 50; interest of L. 30, L. 1, 10s.; proclamations, mortcloth, donations, &c. L. 4, 10s.

I fear the disposition among the poor to refrain from seeking parochial aid is daily becoming less, and I consider the voluntary contribution made by the heritors as a very great evil in that respect. Many, I am persuaded, now apply for relief, believing that, whatever they get, comes from the heritors, and not from the poor's box; but it is much easier to prevent an evil than to remedy it.

*Alehouses.*—There are 4 alehouses in the parish, and I have no doubt that, in some instances, they are very prejudicial to the morals of the people.

*Fuel.*—The common fuel used in the parish is peat at 2s. 6d. per cart load. Coals are imported from the English coast, and sold at 16s. per ton.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Since the former Statistical Account was published, a great change has taken place in the parish. Wages and rents are doubled,—the lands are in the highest state of improvement, where they were formerly covered with whins,—and 10,000 bushels of fine wheat are now annually produced, where it was formerly thought there was something either in the soil or in the climate unfriendly to that grain. The blessings of education are now more generally diffused amongst the people; and I would fondly hope that their character, intellectual, moral, and religious, is greatly improved.

*December 1838.*

## PARISH OF SORBIE.

PRESBYTERY OF WIGTON, SYNOD OF GALLOWAY.

THE REV. ELLIOT W. DAVIDSON, }  
THE REV. A. FORRESTER, } MINISTERS.

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—SORBIE, the modern name of this parish, was in ancient times written Sourby,—a term of Saxon origin, and indicating Sour-habitation, which has been explained as applying to the old Castle of Sorbie, and to the nature of the cold marshy soil on its western side. \*

The present parish includes the three old parishes of Sorbie, Kirkmadrine and Cruggleton, each of which had its own separate church till the middle of the seventeenth century, when they were united into one, under the name of the parish of Sorbie.

*Extent, Boundaries.*—The greatest length of the parish is 6 miles; its mean length about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles; its greatest breadth is 6 miles, and its mean breadth about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles. It contains about 16 square miles. It is bounded on the north, by the parish of Kirkinner; on the south, by Whithorn; on the west, by Whithorn and Glasserton; and on the east, by Wigton Bay.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The figure of the parish is rendered very irregular by a conical section of Whithorn, which penetrates its southern side, at one point, reducing its length to three miles, and its breadth at another point to one mile. Sorbie contains neither mountains nor high hills, but it is beautifully diversified by unequal surface, its little hills and valleys, with their woods and the sea adjoining, forming in many places a richly varied landscape. There is nothing peculiar in the form or connexions of the valleys, with the exception of one which follows a pretty regular direction from west to east, commencing at Dowalton Lake, and terminating at Garlieston Bay. None of the hills are much

\* Chalmers' Caledonia, Vol. iii. p. 427.



raised above the level of the sea, but several of them are sufficiently elevated to present a beautiful panorama of the surrounding country, including Wigton Bay, the Solway Frith, with the Cumberland hills receding behind it, and also the Isle of Man. On the farm of Palmallet, on the south-eastern shore, where the coast is rocky and abrupt, there are two caves, almost contiguous, which are walled and arched by solid rock, and floored with beautifully variegated stones. The one has the appearance of an oblique fissure, and is about 120 feet long, 100 feet high, and 36 feet wide. The other is somewhat funnel-shaped, being widest at its entrance, and may be about 120 feet long, 40 feet high, and 15 feet wide.

The extent of coast, including all its windings, is upwards of two miles. The shore is sandy and flat on the north-east, and in Garlieston and Rigg Bays. At Eggerness point, it is rocky, but not very high. From the south-eastern extremity of Rigg Bay, however, to the point where it joins Whithorn, it is bold and precipitous, rising in some places nearly 200 feet above the level of the sea. The principal bays are Garlieston Bay, Rigg Bay, Innerwell Port, Orchardton Bay, Port Allan, and Port Whapple. The principal sands are those of Orchardton, Culscaddan, and Innerwell; and the chief headlands are Innerwell Point, Eggerness Point, and Crugleton Point.

*Meteorology.*—The monthly or annual temperature of the atmosphere has not been accurately recorded in this parish, but we may state, what is common elsewhere, that in winter the cold is more moderate, especially along the sea coast, than in the more inland parishes. The thermometer in the shade has, during the present summer of 1831, ranged from 64° to 74°, and in the sun it has been upwards of 100°. The pressure of the atmosphere, as indicated by the barometer, ranges from 29 to 30½ inches. Our prevailing winds are from the west, south-west, and south; but in spring and the latter end or autumn, we have often a long period of east wind, which is generally accompanied by dry weather. The state of the weather is sometimes prognosticated by a cloud resting on Cairnsmoor, a high hill in Kirkcudbrightshire; which, after a long period of dry weather, affords a pretty sure sign of a change to rain. A dark haze stretching from the south to the west, and studded with small white clouds, is remarked as often preceding rain; and an appearance in the atmosphere, here called the “wea-

ther gaw," which resembles the rainbow in colour, but is much shorter, and hangs in a vertical line, is sometimes pointed out as indicating a change. A strange tumbling motion of the crows in the air, by which they imitate something like the sound of wind, has been said to precede stormy weather, and rain has also been prognosticated by the more shrill cry of the sea-birds which alight on the lands along the south-eastern shore. Our climate is characterized by considerable variety of heat and cold, drought, and humidity, but it is upon the whole good. Perhaps we may say that it has rather a tendency to humidity, which, however, is well suited to the nature of the soil, and rarely too abundant in summer. There are no diseases which can be traced to any peculiarity in the climate of this district.

*Hydrography.*—The parish, as we have already stated, is bounded on the east by Wigton Bay, which extends upwards of ten miles along the coast. The narrowest part of the Bay, as connected with this parish, is about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles wide. This is from Orchardton to Carsluth Point. From Eggerness Point to Borness Head, it is 8 miles wide; and its greatest width, from Garlieston Bay, or Cruggleton, to the point of Ross, is 10 miles. The colour of the water is bright green, where it is not rendered muddy by flowing over sand. Its transparency is very considerable, especially on the south-eastern shore, where, we are told, the fish have been seen at the bait at the depth of 18 feet. Its depth is various. Between Eggerness Point and the Ross, it is from 30 to 50 feet. In Garlieston and Rigg Bays, it runs from 20 to 30 feet. The saltness of the water is considerable at Cruggleton, but decreases as we advance up the bay, in consequence of the fresh water from the rivers. The tide is derived from the Western Ocean, by way of the North Channel, and may be styled a northern arm of the great tide of the Solway. It flows about six hours, and ebbs during the other six.

There are numerous perennial springs diffused over the parish, which afford a copious supply of excellent water. On the north-western border of the parish, there is a very fine fresh-water lake, called Dowalton Loch, \* from M<sup>c</sup>Dowall, the name of a family, who were proprietors of it, and who lived near it. It is about 3 miles in circumference, and from 6 to 20 feet deep. From

\* Old Statistical Account.

this lake there issues a small stream, which runs from west to east, through a rich valley, and falls into Garlieston Bay.

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—In many parts of the parish, particularly on the north and north-west, there occur numerous beds of transition rocks, varying in extent and thickness. These are disposed in horizontal and variously inclined positions, and follow a direction from north-east to south-west. There is no granite, with the exception of a few detached blocks, from two to three feet long, which present themselves here and there on the surface. We are not aware that any fossil organic remains have been found, belonging either to the animal or vegetable kingdom. Neither ores nor any important minerals have been discovered in the parish. The soil consists, for the most part, of a dry, brownish earth, mixed more or less with till or gravel. In some of the valleys, a heavy loam occurs, but its extent is inconsiderable. The subsoil consists of till, gravel, and whinstone. In several districts marl was once found under beds of moss, from one to three acres in extent, but the greater part of it was exhausted about fifty or sixty years ago, when it was dug up for the purpose of manure. There are no mines of any kind in the parish.

*Zoology.*—Sorbie contains none of the rarer species of animals. Foxes once existed among the rocky cliffs on the sea coast, but they are now believed to be wholly extinct. A great many years ago, very large bullock and deer's horns were found in a bed of marl at Palmallet. This parish, in common with the other parishes of the Mahers, is distinguished for breeding that peculiar species of black-cattle, denominated Galloways, which are well known throughout the country. The horses are mostly of the draught kind, but their breed is rather mixed. There is nothing very remarkable in the quality or value of our sheep or hogs. Pike, perch, and eels abound in Dowalton Loch, and trouts are found in some of the larger streams. The fishes found in the sea are chiefly salmon, herrings, cod, and mackerel, all of which are of importance in an economical point of view. There are no insects which are not common to other parts of the country. Those which are most destructive to vegetation, in general, are the wire-worm and grub. Those which are most injurious to fruit-trees are the caterpillar and the wasp; the former attacking the flower, and the latter the fruit. A considerable variety of shell-fish is found on the coast, such as the oyster, lobster, crab, &c. but none of these are sought after for economical purposes.

*Botany.*—Sorbie was, in 1795, first visited for the purpose of botanical research, by Mr Mackay, then curator of the Botanic Garden in Edinburgh. Three years ago, it was again examined by Mr Goldie, who found a number of the rarer species of British plants, and reckoned it an excellent station, though it had not been previously much noticed. The plantations display a beautiful variety of trees, such as the oak, ash, beech, birch, alder, plane, larch, &c. to all of which the soil seems quite congenial. In Lord Galloway's pleasure grounds, there are some beautiful specimens of laurel, evergreen oak, horse-chestnut, and Turkey oak. Some of the laurels rise to the height of 31 feet, and are considered among the finest in Scotland. There is one Turkey oak, planted not more than fifty years ago, which deserves to be particularly noticed for its beauty, and for the rapidity of its growth. The circumference of its branches is about 156 feet, and the girth of its stem measures 9 feet 5 inches. The soil here is also peculiarly adapted to the growth of evergreen shrubs. In his Lordship's garden, peaches and figs are successfully cultivated on the open wall, even upon south-west aspects. Here, also, there is a vine which merits notice for its size, and the quantity and quality of its fruit. Its stem measures 13 inches in circumference, and the spread of its branches is 40 feet. It produces about 346 bunches, each averaging  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. and some of the individual berries are  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches in circumference.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

The only ancient or modern historical accounts of Sorbie which we have seen, are contained in Symson's Description of Galloway, the Old Statistical Account, and Chalmers' Caledonia. From none of these does it appear that there are any historical events of great importance connected with this district. We have not seen any maps, plans, or surveys of Sorbie; nor are we aware that any resident individuals possess letters, papers, pictures, or any other documents of interest, tending to illustrate the biography, history, or antiquities of the parish.

*Eminent Men.*—The only literary character connected with Sorbie by birth is Patrick Hannay, the poet, who lived in the seventeenth century. We copy the following account of him from Murray's Literary History of Galloway.\* “Patrick Hannay was a younger son of Donald Hannay of Sorbie. It may be inferred that he had received an academical education: for in

\* Literary History, &c. page 269.

the title-page of his *Elegies*, he styles himself A. M." Mr Ellis, in his *Specimens of the early English Poets*, has remarked, that he appears to have served in a military capacity, under Sir Andrew Gray, a Colonel of foot, and General of Artillery to the King of Bohemia. One of his publications bears the following title, "Two *Elegies on the Death of our late Sovereign Queene Anne, with Epitaphes, written by Patrick Hannay, Master of Arts.*" Another is entitled "A Happy Husband; or Directions for a Maid to chuse her Mate, together with a Wive's Behaviour after Marriage. By Patrick Hannay, Gent." Lond. 1619. 8vo. This composition is appended, with a separate title-page, to Brathwyte's *Description of a Good Wife*. It was afterwards inserted in a collection of Hannay's *Poems*, published in the year 1622, and containing "Philomela, the Nightingale, Theretine, and Mariana, *Elegies, Songs, and Sonnets.*" We have been informed that, within these three years, a copy of his poetical works was sold in London for L. 42, 10s. 6d., and that there was prefixed to it, a portrait of the author, which was regarded as a valuable illustration of the state of the arts at the period when it was taken.

*Land-owners.*—The chief proprietors of Sorbie are, the Earl of Galloway (to whom the greater part of the parish belongs); Sir Andrew Agnew of Lochnaw, Bart.; the Earl of Stair; and Mr Hawthorn of Castlewigg.

*Parochial Registers.*—The parochial registers are not voluminous. The date of their earliest entry is 1700. They were properly attended to for some time at first, but afterwards not so carefully conducted. Of late, however, they have been regularly kept.

*Ancient Ecclesiastical State.*—We have already stated that the present parish of Sorbie includes the three old parishes of Sorbie, Kirkmadrine, and Craggleton; but we are told by Chalmers,\* that in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, Sorbie itself formed two divisions; Great Sourby and Little Sourby, each of which had its own church. The union of these two churches was afterwards authorized by Gilbert, the Bishop of Candida Casa, and took place betwixt the years 1235 and 1253. The cure of Sorbie, thus united, was served by a vicar, and belonged to the monks of Dryburgh, till the Reformation, at which period it was let for L. 20 a year.† Of the ancient churches of Great and Little Sourby no vestige is now remaining, but the sites of two churches are still

\* Caledonia, Vol. iii. p. 427.

† Ibid. p. 428.

pointed out, the one at Culnoag, on the north-west, and the other at Gilfillan, near the middle of the parish, and on these we think they must have been built.

The ancient parish of Kirkmadrine forms the eastern district of the present parish of Sorbie. The church of this parish belonged to the prior and canons of St Mary's Isle, and the cure was served by a vicar. About the year 1562, the vicarage was reported to be worth only L. 10 yearly.\* The church appears to have been rather small, exceedingly plain, and without windows. Its ruins are still to be seen on the farm of Penkiln, surrounded by a clump of trees, which also incloses the church-yard. Here some families in the parish still bury; and it may be noticed that some of the bones, occasionally dug up at the opening of a grave, are remarkably large.

The ancient parish of Cruggleton forms the south-eastern district of the present parish. Its church belonged to the priory of Whit-horn, and the cure was served by a vicar. In 1562, the vicarage of Cruggleton was said to be worth L. 16. After the Reformation, the Bishops of Galloway received the patronage of this and the other two parishes; and after Kirkmadrine and Cruggleton were joined to Sorbie, they held the patronage of the united parish, till the abolition of Episcopacy in 1689, when it was vested in the crown.† The church of Cruggleton appears to have been larger, and better built than that of Kirkmadrine. The greater part of the walls is still extant; and the interior of it is occasionally used as burying ground.

*Antiquities.*—The Castle of Cruggleton, which gave name to the parish in which it stood, was built on the verge of a precipitous part of the sea coast. Nothing now remains of it, save part of an arch, and the foundations of some of the walls; but there is enough to shew that, in ancient times, it must have been a place of great size and strength. The spot on which it stood is a kind of promontory, formed by a small bay on each side, and is elevated about 200 feet perpendicular above the level of the sea. The fosse encloses upwards of an acre of ground, and is still quite distinct. It is 183 yards long, and about 12 yards wide. We have not been able to ascertain the precise period at which the castle was built, but we are told by Chalmers that it certainly existed in the thirteenth century, and that it was the property and domicile of John

\* Caledonia, Vol. iii. p. 429.

† Ibid. p. 428-9.

Comyn, the Earl of Buchan, as one of the heirs parceners of the Lords of Galloway. The same author farther informs us,\* that in 1292, John Comyn, the Earl of Buchan, obtained from Edward I. a license to dig in the ruins of the Calf of Man, for lead, to cover eight towers of his castle of Cruggleton, in Galloway; that John Comyn was afterwards totally defeated by King Robert Bruce, who seized his estates and castles; and that the castle of Cruggleton was involved in the ruin of his family. It existed as a ruin before the year 1684. The castle is now on the estate of Sir Andrew Agnew of Lochnew, Bart.

The old Castle of Eggerness stood upon a bold part of the coast, on a head-land of the same name, and must have been a place of considerable strength. Scarcely any vestige of it now remains, except a part of the fosse, and its history is involved in entire obscurity.

The old place or tower of Sorbie is a beautiful ruin, surrounded by wood, and situated about three quarters of a mile from the parish church. It appears to have been a place of strength. There are the remains of a fosse on the eastern side, where the land is rising; but from the nature of the ground on every other side, we think its chief defence must have been formed by a sheet of water. The Hannays possessed this estate and Castle of Sorbie, together with other lands in Wigtonshire, in the reign of James IV., and continued here during the seventeenth century.† The estate of Sorbie now belongs to the Earl of Galloway.

*Modern Edifices.*—The only modern edifice in Sorbie worthy of particular notice is Galloway House, the seat of the Earl of Galloway, which was built about seventy or eighty years ago. We quote the following account of it from the Old Statistical Account. "Galloway House forms part of a landscape truly beautiful and grand. Garlieston Bay is on the north, and Rigg Bay is on the south of it. From its windows are seen the richest fields; an indented coast, adorned with growing improvements; a cluster of isles, and the lofty mountains of Cumberland and Man, appearing at a proper distance. The principal rooms are spacious, and the library is stored with many thousand valuable volumes."

The houses of the villages are in general well built. There are three mills in the parish. The materials generally employed in building are whinstone (of which Sorbie furnishes an abundant supply), and American pine, which is annually imported.

\* Caledonia, Vol. iii, p. 372.

† Ibid. p. 369.

## III.—POPULATION.

From the records of the synod of Galloway it appeared that, in 1697, the population of Sorbie was 480. In 1755, it was 986.

The amount of population as shown by the census of 1791, was 1071  
 1801, 1091  
 1811, 1265  
 1821, 1319  
 1831, 1412

The number of males being 656, females, 756

The gradual increase of the population is to be attributed mainly to improvements in agriculture and shipping, but it must be observed that, within the last forty or fifty years, a considerable number of Irish families have settled in the parish, and have contributed to augment the labouring classes beyond what these causes could have otherwise effected. Their existence in the parish is therefore to be attributed more to their capacity of subsisting on an inferior scale of comforts, than to the healthy stimulus of an increase in the means of subsistence.

The number of the population at present residing in villages, is	757
in the country is	655
The yearly average of births for the last 7 years may be reckoned about	87
deaths, - - - - -	24
marriages, - - - - -	8
The average number of persons under 15 years of age is about	497
betwixt 15 and 30 - - - - -	316
30 and 50 - - - - -	317
50 and 70 - - - - -	175
upwards of 70 - - - - -	43

The Earl of Galloway is the only nobleman who has a place of residence in Sorbie; and there are no families or individuals of independent fortune living in the parish.

The number of proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards, is 4  
 unmarried men, bachelors, and widowers, upwards of 50, is 22  
 unmarried women upwards of 45, - - - - - 22

Number of families, - - - - - 299  
 chiefly employed in agriculture, - - - - - 140  
 in trade, manufactures, or handicraft, 90

Average number of children in each family, 4  
 Number of inhabited houses, - - - - - 289  
 houses uninhabited or now building, 2

Number of illegitimate births during the last three years, 7.

The people, on the whole, enjoy, in a reasonable degree, the comforts and advantages of society, and are contented with their situation and circumstances. Their intellectual, moral, and religious character is good.

There is no poaching in game, or in the salmon-fisheries, and no smuggling carried on in the parish.

## IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—

Number of acres standard imperial measure in the parish, which are either cultivated or occasionally in tillage, - - - - - 7772



Number of acres which have never been cultivated, and which remain constantly waste, or in pasture,	744
Number of acres that might, with a profitable application of capital, be added to the cultivated land of the parish, whether that land were afterwards to be kept in occasional tillage, or in permanent pasture,	80
Number of acres in a state of undivided common, under wood,	0 490

We have already mentioned the variety of trees planted, and it may here be noticed that the yearly thinning and periodical felling of these is judiciously conducted.

*Rent.*—The average rent of arable land per imperial acre is L. 1. The average rent of grazing may be rated at L. 3 per ox or cow grazed, and at 15s. per ewe or full-grown sheep pastured for the year.

*Wages.*—The rate of wages for a farm-labourer per day is 1s. 6d.; do. per year without victuals, L. 25; do. per year with victuals, L. 11. Rate of wages for a mason, house-carpenter, or mechanic, per day, 2s. 6d.; do. for a ship-carpenter, 3s.

*Prices.*—The average price of wheat per imperial bushel is 6s. 9d.; of barley, do. 4s.; of oats, do. 2s. 4d.; of potatoes, do. 7d.; of turnips per cart, 3s.; of hay per stone of 26 lbs. 7d. The price of a good cart, L. 10; of an iron plough, L. 4, 10s.; of a couple of harrows, L. 1, 15s.; of a drill-harrow, L. 1, 10s.; shoeing of a horse, 2s. 6d.

*Live-Stock.*—Our common breed of sheep is rather large, but considerably mixed. The cattle, as we have already stated, are of the Galloway breed, and much attention has been paid to their improvement. Their colour is mostly black, and they are without horns. They are generally sold when two or three years old, and taken to the Dumfries market, where they are again sold for the English markets.

*Husbandry.*—The state of husbandry, in this parish, is highly improved. Oats and barley are the grains usually cultivated. Wheat is raised only in small quantity. Within the last ten or twelve years, turnips have been extensively and profitably cultivated for feeding sheep. The sheep, for this purpose, are purchased at the Falkirk trysts, and, when fat, are generally sent to the Liverpool market, with which the parish enjoys the advantage of a regular steam communication. Bone-dust was introduced as a manure, about two years ago, and the green crops raised on it, as well as the following crop of grain, have been of superior quality. It costs 2s. 6d. per bushel, and from twenty-five to thirty-five of them are laid on the acre.

The general duration of leases is nineteen years, which term is generally believed to be favourable to the occupier. The state of farm-buildings and enclosures, in the parish, is exceedingly good; and we cannot say that any serious obstacles to improvement arise either from the want of capital, or the want of encouragement from proprietors.

*Fisheries.*—There is a salmon-fishery at Innerwell Port, the rent of which is about L. 200 per annum. At this place, herrings, mackerel, cod, and other kinds of fish are also frequently caught. About three years ago, herrings were caught, in considerable quantity, off Garlieston and Cruggleton. Some of the boats made nearly L. 30 each by their fishings, during the season, which induced the people of Garlieston to build about twenty little boats for the purpose of following the fishing; but the want of success experienced during the two last seasons, renders it doubtful whether this branch of industry will continue to be prosecuted for economical purposes.

*Produce.*—The average gross amount of raw produce annually raised in the parish, may be rated as follows :

Produce of grain of all kinds,	-	-	-	L. 5175	0	0
of potatoes, turnips, and other plants,	-	-	-	1778	0	0
of hay, meadow and cultivated,	-	-	-	1094	0	0
of land in pasture,	-	-	-	4052	0	0
of the annual thinning and periodical felling of woods,	-	-	-	187	0	0
of fisheries,	-	-	-	350	0	0
<b>Total yearly value of raw produce,</b>				<b>L. 12,636</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

*Manufactures.*—There are two branches of manufacture established in the parish; the one, a damask manufactory, in the village of Sorbie; and the other, a rope and sail manufactory, at the village of Garlieston. The former employs about 91 hands, including those who spin; the latter employs about 10. At both of these, the men usually work ten or twelve hours per day, and six days per week. The damask manufactory is of nearly fifty years' standing, and is much famed for the superiority of its fabrics and patterns of double damask. The goods are all used by families of the highest rank, as they are wholly made from the best Dutch flax, hand-spun; and the nobility of the county take such an interest in the success of the manufactory, that the quality of the goods is known through the most of Scotland and England. In 1800, a suit of damask was sent (for the first time) to the annual competition in Edinburgh, before the Board of Trustees, and it gained the highest premium. The articles produced at the rope

and sail manufactory are used both for shipping, and for the different purposes of rural economy. Both branches of manufacture afford a fair remuneration and support to those engaged in them, and produce no bad effects on health and morals.

*Navigation.*—Garlieston is the only shipping-port in the parish which vessels usually frequent. The harbour was very much enlarged and otherwise improved some years ago, and is now capable of affording shelter for thirty vessels. At high tides it contains about eighteen or twenty feet of water. There are fifteen vessels belonging to the port. Four of these carry 100 tons each; and the remaining eleven average 48 tons each. Besides these, two or three foreign vessels occasionally trade to the port. Ship-building has been carried on rather actively at Garlieston during the last fifteen years. We may state, that, in the course of that time, fourteen vessels have been built, some of which carry 100 tons.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Town.*—Sorbie contains no market-town; and there are no fairs of any kind held in the parish. The nearest market-town is Whithorn, which is about four and a-half miles distant.

*Villages.*—There are two villages in the parish; Sorbie, which is about two miles from the sea; and Garlieston, which is beautifully situated on a bay of the same name. The former contains 170, and the latter 587 inhabitants. In these two villages there are thirteen public-houses; and the effects of these on the morals of the people are uniformly injurious.

*Means of Communication.*—The parish enjoys ample means of communication, both by sea and land. There is a penny-post established at Garlieston. Sorbie village has daily communication with the post-office of Wigton. Good roads traverse the country in every direction; and Garlieston harbour opens up an important avenue to the markets of Liverpool, Whitehaven, and other places on the western coast of England.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church is situated at the village of Sorbie, and is about four miles distant from the extremity of the parish. Its situation may be said to be convenient for the greater number of the inhabitants, the populous village of Garlieston being only two and a-half miles distant. It was rebuilt about the year 1750, and thoroughly repaired in 1826. It affords accommodation for nearly 500 persons. Most of the seats in the lower

part of the church are apportioned to the farmers; the remainder below and the galleries are free to the other inhabitants of the parish. The manse was rebuilt in 1778, and enlarged about the year 1813. The glebe contains 9 acres, and its yearly value is about L. 12. The amount of the stipend is L. 242, 4s. 10½d. in money; and 2 firlots, 1 peck, 2½ lippies of meal, and the same of bear. No communion elements are allowed, the teinds being exhausted. There are no chapels of ease attached to the Established Church. There is one Independent chapel in the parish. The minister of this is paid by his hearers, and receives about L. 60 per annum. There are no Episcopalian or Catholic chapels in Sorbie.

The number of families attending the Established Church is 152; number of persons of all ages attending Established Church, 671; number attending the chapels of Dissenters, 214; number attending Catholic chapel at Newton-Stewart (thirteen miles distant), 55. Divine service at the Established Church is generally well attended. The average number of communicants at the Established Church is about 240. There is one Bible Society in the parish, the yearly contributions of which may average about L. 15. The yearly average of church collections for the poor is about L. 30.

*Education.*—Total number of Schools in the parish, 5; parochial schools, 1; unendowed schools, 4. Among these there are two female schools, one of which is supported by Lady Galloway, and conducted upon the Lancasterian system. The branches of instruction generally taught in the parochial school are, reading, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, geography, Latin, and Greek. One of the schools of Garlieston has been long famous for navigation, and the practical branches of mathematics. The parochial teacher possesses the legal accommodations. His salary is L. 25, 13s. 3½d.; and the amount of school fees may be rated at L. 64 per annum. The yearly expense of education at the parochial school is as follows:—Reading of English, 12s.; reading and writing, 14s.; arithmetic, 16s.; Latin or Greek, 20s.; book-keeping by single entry, 20s.; book-keeping by double entry, L. 2, 2s.; mensuration, 7s. 6d.; trigonometry, 7s. 6d.; navigation, 21s. The number of the young betwixt six and fifteen, who cannot read or write, may be about six, and these we believe to be mostly of the lower Irish. We know of none in the parish upwards of fifteen who cannot read or

write. The people are in general alive to the benefits of education, and manifest a strong desire to have their children well taught. We do not think that any additional schools are required in Sorbie. The increased facilities of education have certainly effected a corresponding increase in the knowledge and refinement of the people, but the state of morality is much the same as it has been for many years. Among some of the lower classes, indeed, the native virtues of our character have been invaded by the contaminating influence of the lower Irish, whose poverty and degradation, in no instance, contribute to elevate the standard of morality.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid is about 30, and the average sum allotted to each per year is about L. 2. The annual amount of contributions for their support is about L. 60. Of this sum L. 30 are collected in the church, and about L. 30 received as donations from the proprietors. There is no other regular mode of procuring funds for the poor, but the inhabitants of the parish are in the habit of giving them additional charity in meal, and other articles of food, two or three times a-year; and the relief afforded in this way is more than equal to that obtained by the annual contributions. There is a disposition among the poor to refrain from seeking parochial aid; but this feeling is by no means so marked as it once was, and its deterioration we ascribe partly to the hurtful example of the lower Irish, and partly to the ready relief afforded to the poor, in times of unusual scarcity and distress.

*Fuel.*—The fuel used in Sorbie consists of peat and coal. The peat is procured chiefly from the neighbouring parish of Kirkinner, at 2s. 6d. per cart-load; and the coal is obtained from Whitehaven, Workington, or Maryport, at 16s. per ton.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Since the date of the last Statistical Account, agriculture has undergone a very marked improvement. Green crops are now generally raised, and are found to be advantageous, both for the profits which they yield, and for the improvement which they operate upon the land. Turnips, especially when eaten off by sheep, are followed by superior crops of grain. The general rule of farming is still what it formerly was; that is, to have one-third of the land in tillage, and two-thirds in pasture. The average rent of land per acre is now more than double of what it was forty years ago, and almost all the arable land has been under cultivation. Upon the whole, the system of husbandry pursued in this parish

is fully as much improved as the present state of things will admit of, and our facilities of internal communication are as great as can possibly be desired. The villages have increased in size and population. Garlieston, from its ship-building and the improvement of its harbour, has increased in commercial importance. The knowledge, taste, manners, and dress of the great body of the people, have all been obviously much improved within the last forty years; and the happiness and comfort of the labouring classes might be still farther promoted by an enlightened co-operation of landlord and tenant, to prevent the influx of Irish labourers, and preserve the rate of wages from sinking too low. This would advance even the lowest classes in the parish to a point in the scale of living, which, in seasons of dearth, would admit of their making some retrenchments in order to subsist on the profits of their own industry; whereas, at present, in times of scarcity, they are either reduced to want, or compelled to subsist on the voluntary contributions of their more fortunate neighbours,—a state of things, which, in so far as it prevails, exerts the most debasing influence on the genuine spirit of independence.

*Revised December 1838.*

---

## PARISH OF GLASSERTON.

PRESBYTERY OF WIGTON, SYNOD OF GALLOWAY.

THE REV. SAMUEL CLANAGHAN, MINISTER.

---

### L—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THE word Glasserton, it is said, is derived from the ancient Saxon, and signifies a bare hill. No doubt there are several bare hills in the parish: but the appellation is so far from being a distinctive one, that half the parishes in Scotland might have had the same name.

*Boundaries, &c.*—The parish is bounded by Mochrum parish on the west; Sorbie and Kirkinner on the north; Whithorn on east; and the Bay of Luce on the south. It is one of the most southerly parishes in Scotland. It begins two miles from Borough-head, and stretches along the sea coast till within two miles of Port William, a distance of seven miles, which is part of the space be-

tween Borough-head and the Mull of Galloway,—two points about which it has sometimes been disputed which is really the southernmost. The maps, however, have decided in favour of the Mull, and I believe correctly.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The parish is long and narrow, being at least eight miles in length, and varying from one to three miles in breadth. It is most irregular in its outline and shape, and so intersected by the neighbouring parishes, that some of the inhabitants of the parish of Whithorn, in going to their parish church, have to pass through part of the parish of Glasserton; and, *vice versa*, the people of Glasserton, in more points than one, have to pass through the parish of Whithorn in going to their church. The sea coast of this parish and the north coast of the Isle of Man lie parallel to each other, the island bearing nearly south or south-south-west from Glasserton, at a distance of sixteen or eighteen miles.

The coast is generally bold and rocky. The hills, or *heughs*, as they are called, which terminate the land, are of various heights, green at top and half-way or more down the declivity. But from that down to the beach they are precipitous rocks, grey, black, or weather-beaten, as they are more or less washed by the waves. They are broken and rugged, often perpendicular, and sometimes hanging over. In other places, they slope away into the sea, showing here and there their black and pointed tops above the surface. The sea beach and all within water-mark is a rocky bottom, covered with loose stones of various sizes, some of them rounded and polished by the motion of the sea, whilst others are shapeless masses, covered with shells and marine plants.

There are two three ports where sloops can unload in fine weather; but there is nothing like a safe harbour in any part of the parish.

There are some caves at the bottom of the cliffs, but they are not of much depth, nor do they penetrate far backwards. There is nothing remarkable in their history, nor any particular tradition concerning them, with the exception of one on the Physgill shore, in which St Ninian is said to have taken up his residence for a time; but whether he lived in a cave through choice or necessity does not appear. St Ninian is said to have been the founder of Whithorn Priory, and the first Bishop of Galloway. It is probable he was a man of abstemious habits, an anchorite in disposition, and one who, like a true Catholic, believed that, if self-denial was

good, penance was still better. The people in this part of the country have corrupted his name into St Ringan; and the hole where he lived is known by the name of St Ringan's Cave. It is a place of small dimensions, and does not penetrate more than twenty feet into the rock. Its roof is about eight or ten feet high. The stones in the roof are wedged like an arch, and water drops from the crevices. It stands a few feet above the level of the sea, and looks towards the east. It is a cool enough retreat in a warm summer day; but in winter, with an easterly wind, it would be exceedingly cold quarters.

*General Aspect and Surface of the Country.*—It is broken and uneven, with scarcely anything like a level field to be seen; and yet there is little of what could be called hill and dale, but small knolls, and a constant succession of heights and hollows.

Almost every field has more or less waste land in it; and yet some are excellent either for crop or pasture. Indeed, there are fields in this parish equal to any in the county for feeding cattle; and yet they would find no favour in the eyes of a stranger, merely from their broken and uneven surface. But the richness of soil in the hollows, and the shelter afforded by the knolls, sometimes covered with furze, which still adds to their shelter, are advantages which make up for the apparent waste. These heights, when not covered with furze, are thickly clothed with a coarser sort of grass, which, not being eaten in summer, affords a great deal of excellent foggage for the winter.

The south side of the parish, along the shore, is the highest ground, and may properly be called hilly. The Hill of Glaserton, the Fell of Carlton, and the Fell of Barhullion, are hills of considerable magnitude. As to their height above the level of the sea, I have not the means of ascertaining it with precision. I should suppose it to be from 400 to 600 feet. They are mostly green, with rocks occasionally breaking through the green surface. Such is the sea shore on the south side of the parish. On the northern boundaries, there are hills also, but they are of a different description, and consist of different materials. They are till from top to bottom, with a smoother surface, more curved and regular in their shape. The soil, however, is poor and spongy. They are always wettest at top, with a subsoil so close and impervious, that it is very difficult if not impossible to drain them. These hills are arable but not fertile, on account of their tilly subsoil. Both grain and grass is chilled and stunted by the moisture, which can-



not escape downward, but is constantly oozing up through the surface.

The hills on the sea shore are only partly arable, from the thinness of the soil, and being interspersed with bare rocks towards their summits. But none of hills, either on the south or north, are covered with heath, as described in the Old Statistical Account of this parish. In as far, then, as that Account was correct, so far has improvement advanced. But I suspect, that, if ever there were heath-clad hills, it must have been much earlier than the date of that report. There are, to be sure, spots and patches of moorland and mosses of considerable extent in the north-western parts, but even the moory parts are but lightly sprinkled with heath. They are covered with sprit and other coarse grasses and plants common to moory soils. The mosses formerly supplied the inhabitants with peats for fuel; and even yet these are used in some places, but not commonly, for coals are procured with less trouble, and at a moderate expense.

Of late, both proprietors and farmers have been more anxious to bring the mosses into cultivation than to encourage peat cutting. They are more desirous to level the surface and drain off the water, than to dig pits to retain it, which is the consequence of the peat system. Indeed, if the moss is upon a rocky bottom, and of no great depth, cutting it away in peats is destroying so much land altogether. It is demolishing in a single day what nature required some thousand years to produce.

The cultivation of moss has been carried as far perhaps as is profitable. What has already been subjected to tillage might be susceptible of still farther improvement in draining, levelling, and manuring, or in top-dressing with cross soils, which is always exceedingly beneficial; but any farther encroachments into the centre of the mosses, that is, into the flow-moss or soft spongy part, would not be advisable, at least for a long time to come. Besides, there is no great extent of such moss in the parish.

There is no natural wood in this parish. Furze abounds, and, if not kept in check, would soon cover the whole surface. There are bushes of hazel, sloe-thorn, and broom to be met with, but not in such quantity as to give the farmer much concern; but furze costs him a great deal of labour to keep it from over-spreading the fields.

From this description of the surface of the land, it may be supposed that there is much variety in the soil, which is the case,

for, in the compass of a field of even small dimensions, we find three or four different soils. This, no doubt, is a great disadvantage in ripening the crops, for the same ridge, perhaps, has light dry soil, loam and moss, in different parts; consequently, the grain is green or ripe, according as the soil is heavy or light, damp or dry.

The subsoil is equally various, and perhaps more so. It consists of clay, till, gravel, and rock. The rocks are of different kinds, but chiefly a kind of transition slate, full of joints and fissures, which has sometimes been used for gravelling roads, though it is certainly the worst road-metal possible; for the feet of horses or cattle immediately pound it into clay. Its only recommendation is cheapness at first. But at last, it is the dearest and the worst. A road made of this is never good, but constantly in need of repairs.

But the subsoil in some places is of greywacke (whinstone.) This is now used for Macadamizing the roads; but it is difficult to break, and does not cut in any direction which the workmen desire; it is what they call "cross-grain'd," and breaks into irregular pieces.

It does not appear that granite forms any part of the subsoil in this parish, nor are there any strata of it, either on the sea shore or inland parts, as stated in the Old Statistical Account. There are sometimes detached pieces of granite to be found. They are generally bedded in the surface. They are round in shape, as if they had been rolled among the other elements, like pebbles which are rounded by the motion of the sea.

*Meteorology.*—The climate is exceedingly good, and favourable to health and longevity. Typhus, scarlet fever, pleurisy, and consumption, do occasionally make their appearance amongst us, but never prevail to any alarming extent. The atmosphere is mild and moist. The soil in Galloway is generally light and thin, and, of course, easily scorched by dry weather. But the soil and climate are well adapted to each other, for if the soil require frequent showers, it generally receives them. The prevailing winds are the westerly. The greatest storms and heaviest rains are from the south-west. The wind ranges from south-east to west, I should suppose, at least two-thirds of the whole year. The winter is very mild, without much frost or snow. From the mildness of the winter in Galloway, it has been called the Devonshire of Scotland; along the sea coast, especially, snow never lies for any length of time, and a week or two of uninterrupted frost is a very rare occurrence. As a proof of this, there are many winters

during which the curlers are entirely deprived of their favourite sport for want of ice.

*Hydrography.*—There are no rivers in this parish nor lakes of importance. The Loch of Dowalton, however, is surrounded by Kirkinner, Sorbie, and this parish. But it forms only a small part of our boundary. This lake is perhaps a mile and a half in length, and from half a mile to three quarters in breadth. There is another small lake near the House of Castlestewart; but there is nothing remarkable in the appearance or history of either of these lakes. Pike, perch, trout, and eels, are found in them, but not in great abundance. In Castlestewart Loch, there are leeches of a superior sort, but not numerous.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Mansion-Houses.*—There are three mansion-houses in the parish; but only one residing heritor, Mr Stewart of Physgill, who constantly resides at Glasserton. Physgill is tenanted by two ladies; and in Castlestewart no gentleman's family has resided for upwards of forty years,—it is therefore getting fast into disrepair.

*Land-owners.*—The parish belongs to five heritors,—Sir William Maxwell, Bart. of Monrieth; Stair H. Stewart, Esq. of Physgill; the Earl of Galloway; the Earl of Stair; and John Pringle, Esq. of Craigdow. This latter gentleman resides occasionally on his property here.

*Antiquities.*—It is worthy of notice that the head of a Urus was not long ago found in a marl-pit on the estate of Castlewig, in this parish. It was sent by Mr Train of Castle-Douglas, to Sir Walter Scott,—and, it is supposed, yet to be seen immediately over the door at Abbotsford. It is of the following dimensions: From the top of the head to the point of the nose, 28 inches; between the sockets of the eyes, 13 inches; diameter of the sockets of the eyes, 4 inches; round the flint of the horn, 13 inches.

## III.—POPULATION.

Population in 1801,	-	860	
1811,	-	1047	
1821,	-	1057	
1831,	-	1194	
Number of families in the parish,	-	-	231
chiefly employed in agriculture,	-	-	124
in trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	-	-	28

## IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—The parish contains about 10,688 Scotch acres; of which about 3000 are waste, and betwixt 200 and 300 planted. The rental is about L. 8570. As many of the farms have their rents re-

gulated by the fiars price of grain, of course these rents vary more or less every year, and some of the lands being possessed by the proprietors themselves, can only be reported at an estimated value; in many cases, also, there is considerable difference betwixt what is promised and what is really paid. Some of the lands I was under the necessity of stating at rents promised in the original contracts, whilst from other tenants I obtained a statement of the reductions of rent which had been allowed for some time past, and which were expected to be continued. The following is nearly the value and measurement of the properties separately,—

Monrieth estate.	5308 acres,	L. 3500
Glaserton and Phyagill,	2700	3000
Earl of Galloway's,	740	800
Castleewart,	1440	920
Craigdow,	500	350

Agriculture has been much improved in this parish during the last twenty or thirty years. Both landlords and tenants are on the alert to carry into practice every improvement which promises beneficial results. Those improvements suggested by Sir John Sinclair have been carried much farther than he could have anticipated at that time; and many new plans have been adopted, and experiments made which Sir John did not think of, but which he would have highly approved, had he been consulted as to their propriety. The system of green cropping which he recommended has become quite general.

The moors have thoroughly been brought into cultivation, if ever there was much land of that description in the parish. They have all vanished at the touch of cultivation, and those lands which were, forty years ago, covered with heath, now wave with barley, or are covered with rye-grass and clover; they are now cultivated fields, shorn with the scythe, and levelled with the roller. But still it must be observed that, unless a fac-simile of the land in its original state could be preserved, it is impossible afterwards to estimate either the extent of the improvement, or the labour and expenses which it required. This remark is particularly applicable to draining, which is one of our greatest improvements.

All the lands in this parish are now well enclosed and divided, and the rotation of crops strictly adhered to. Bone manure has lately been introduced and applied to raising turnips, which are fed off with sheep. This promises to be the greatest improvement which has been discovered for many years, and will probably be

looked upon hereafter as the beginning of a new era in the history of farming. Change of manure seems to be as essential as change of crops. Lime, when often repeated, loses much of its efficacy. It acts only as a stimulant at best, and, after two or three repetitions, the land can be stimulated no longer, being exhausted, unless new strength is supplied by dung, or some other substantial manure; and the quantity of dung which can be raised on a farm is very limited, and inadequate for keeping the land in proper condition;—then it is too heavy and bulky a substance to be imported or carried from a distance; consequently, farmers had the greatest difficulty in obtaining a sufficient quantity of manure for their green crop fields. Indeed, this difficulty was so great, that the land seldom got half the manure which it required. This difficulty is now completely obviated by the application of bone dust. This is the most portable of all manures. Twenty or thirty imperial bushels of it are the allowance for an acre of turnips. The carriage of this quantity from England or Ireland does not come to more than 2s. 6d. or 3s.: and a single horse cart will carry thirty bushels from the sea-port to the farm. Steep hills can now be manured with bone-dust, without subjecting horses to labour so hard and oppressive, that they were often wind-broken, and rendered nearly useless for life,—for this was a frequent occurrence in drawing dung and compost up to the tops of the mountains. Under these advantages, a greater quantity of grain will no doubt be raised in this part of the country; and steam navigation being introduced about the same time, affords greater facility in carrying produce to market, than the farmers in this neighbourhood have been hitherto accustomed to enjoy. But to say the truth, all these advantages were required to support the drooping spirits of the Galloway farmers, for, notwithstanding all the indulgence of their landlords, which has been very great indeed, they have been struggling with difficulties for at least these twenty years. They were difficulties too, of such magnitude, that several have sunk under them, and very few have been able to fulfil the engagements entered into with their landlords.

The system of tillage generally followed in this place is one crop of oats in opening up a field; next year, a green crop, either of potatoes or turnips; the third, it is sown out with rye-grass and clover, along with wheat, barley or oats; then a hay crop is taken; and after that, the field returns to pasture, for a longer or shorter period, according to the number of divisions in the farm. Three

or four years pasture is the general practice, but circumstances may occur which may warrant a change in this rotation. Landlords always lay down a specific plan of management in their contracts with tenants; but they are very indulgent, and seldom interfere with a tenant's management. Indeed, the interests of landlord and tenant lie quite in the same direction, and what is good for the one, is seldom bad for the other.

It is unnecessary to describe the various instruments of husbandry used in this place, for they are quite the same here as in any place where an improved system of agriculture has been introduced. Everything which can shorten labour or save expense is as readily adopted here as the best friends of improvement could desire. There is now nothing of prejudice, and no obstinate adherence to old customs and habits in these matters.

It might be inferred from the preceding observations, that this is a cropping district, and entirely under the dominion of the plough: the south side of the parish, in fact, is nearly all arable. Yet a considerable proportion of the best land in the parish is permanently in grass, at least it has not been disturbed by the ploughshare for the last sixty or seventy years. Indeed, some of the finest pasture land in Galloway is in this parish, and its excellence is generally known and acknowledged by all the graziers and cattle-dealers in the south of Scotland.

Until within the last seventy or eighty years, the quantity of land under tillage was trifling in comparison to its present extent. This was the case not only in this parish, but through the whole of this part of the country. The farm-houses were generally placed on a spot of fine dry land, the richest and best which the farm contained, and in the neighbourhood of a clear perennial spring; for that was an object to which the people then strictly attended. Having thus chosen the most favourable situation they could find for their farm-steading, they enclosed round about it ten, twenty, or thirty acres, more or less, in proportion to the size of the farm. This field was called the *Fey*, and was cropped almost without intermission. It received all the manure which could be collected about the place. Hence the distinction between fey-land and out-field land: the out-field being either not enclosed, or but partially enclosed, was used mostly for pasture, and the fey for cropping. This arrangement was the more convenient, because, in these times, there was no such thing as a cart. The dung was carried in two *creels* or hampers, slung across a horse's

back. The bottom of the hamper was fastened with a pin put through a staple or iron loop, and when they wanted to disload their cargo they had only to take out the pin, when the bottom of the hamper opened, and the contents fell out without removal of the creels from the horse's back. This, to be sure, was but a slow and troublesome method of carrying out manure, but, not unfrequently, a still more laborious and tedious process was submitted to, for the people sometimes carried the *creel* upon their own backs, and the writer of this Report is old enough to remember having seen this method practised in the moorland parts of this county. When the wearisomeness and drudgery of these operations are taken into consideration, it is not very wonderful that manure was not carried to a greater distance, or that the fey, as they called it, should have the benefit of the whole manure collected in the farm. This, then, was the origin of what is now called rich old fey-land. A field of a good natural soil being selected, it received the whole of the dung for very many years. Among the other good qualities of rich fey-land, this is one, that it does not deteriorate by remaining in pasture; but, on the contrary, continues to improve. This will account for the above assertion, that the best pasture in the county is to be found in this parish, for there are several fields of fey-land in pasture, which have not been ploughed for upwards of eighty years.

*Breeds of Live-Stock.*—The breed of Galloway cattle here has hitherto been preserved pure and genuine; and this parish has always been considered as forming part of that particular district in the county, where the Galloway breed of cattle is to be found in its utmost perfection. But I am afraid the time is approaching, when it shall only be said that such things *were*, and when it may be even necessary to appeal to such a record as this to prove the fact.

The dairy system is now beginning to be considered more profitable than breeding. This is an opinion which is fast gaining ground. And we have already in this parish three or four farms stocked with Ayrshire cows. This of course will contaminate the Galloway breed, perhaps displace it altogether. For the progress of contamination will be more rapid here, than almost any where else: for this reason, that feeding calves for veal is never practised in this part of the country. Besides, in order to unite the two systems together, (I mean breeding and cheese-making,) Galloway bulls are used, which produce black stock. This first cross is growthy, and feeds well. Some think that they even come to maturity sooner than the true Galloway breed:—of course the bullocks of this descrip-

tion bring nearly as much money as the native breed, and the cross-bred queys are often kept, from a notion that they will prove good milkers; and sometimes they are passed off for true Galloways. The consequence of this will be, the introduction of a spurious, thin-haired, degenerate race of cattle. The causes which we have now mentioned are quite sufficient to produce that result; but some believe that there are other less obvious causes which have a tendency to increase the evil, and to accelerate the progress of deterioration. They believe that the very sight of Ayrshire cows in the neighbourhood corrupts the native breed, and that it often causes Galloways of the purest breed, and blackest colour, to produce red, speckled, and spotted calves.

There is nothing remarkable in our breed of horses now. Formerly Galloway was celebrated for its horses, which were small in size, beautifully symmetrical, and possessed of a great deal of action. So famous were they in these respects, that a handsome active little horse, useful for all purposes, has generally obtained the name of a *Galloway*. But this native breed is nearly, if not altogether, extinct; what has mostly been bred here for many years, is the common cart-horse, of no very superior qualities. An attempt, indeed, was lately made to breed from blood-horses with cart mares, by way of getting a more lightsome, active sort of horse, and more convertible to different purposes. But this project seems to have failed, as many of this breed were not very suitable for any purpose whatever; and farmers have now mostly turned their attention to improving the breed of strong draught horses.

The sheep bred in this parish are but few. They seldom exceed 12 or 16 breeding ewes to each farm; and these are generally Leicesters. Those who fatten sheep on turnips during the winter, purchase them at Falkirk in October; but they are brought from Minigaff also, or any place in the neighbourhood where they can be found. The farmers do not confine themselves to any particular place or sort of sheep, but the Highland sheep seem to be preferred. Their inlaid cost may average about L. 1 a head, and their value when fattened about L. 1, 16s., or rather from L. 1, 10s. to L. 2; for their price is subject to considerable fluctuations.

*Fisheries.*—There are no fisheries on the Glasserton coast. Small two-oared boats in the summer season take a few cod and other kinds of white-fish with bait. I believe there are not half a dozen such boats in the parish, and they are employed sometimes as an amusement, and as a bye-job, when there is little else to do, or by old



people who are unfit for harder labour. It has been attempted to take salmon with a draw-net at a place opposite the little village of Monrieth; but the plan does not succeed well, and can only be practised in fine weather, and for a few days at a time during the spring tides. The coast is too rocky for fishing in this way, at least to any extent.

*Wages.*—Men-servants by the half-year, with victuals, L. 5 or guineas; women-servants from L. 2 to L. 2, 10s.; harvest wages for men from L. 2 to L. 2, 5s., for women about L. 1, 10s. The day's wages is 1s. 4d. in summer, and 1s. 2d. in winter; day's wages in harvest about 2s. without victuals.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Means of Communication.*—I have already mentioned the introduction of steam navigation as one of our very recent improvements. Since I commenced writing this report, I understand that the principal land proprietors in the county have made an arrangement with Government for a mail-coach to run from Newtonstewart by Wigton, Garliestown, Whithorn, Port-William, and Glenluce, to Stranraer. This road passes through the parish of Glasserton; entering this parish about half a mile from the burgh of Whithorn, it continues in it to the village of Monrieth, within two miles of Port-William, which is eight miles from Whithorn. Hitherto, Newtonstewart was the nearest point at which the mail could be reached, which is twenty-two miles from the church of Glasserton. This arrangement, therefore, may be considered as a great advantage to this part of the country.

*Villages, &c.*—This parish contains no towns, and only one village. The nearest market-town is Whithorn. There is no public or private associations of any description, and neither trade nor manufactures. It is entirely an agricultural parish; and the few mechanics which belong to it are dependent on or connected with agriculture, such as smiths, joiners, shoemakers, tailors; but weavers have nearly vanished, and the inhabitants chiefly depend upon the manufactures of other places for their clothing. Spinning and knitting, which formerly was the employment of old and infirm women, is no longer practised. Indeed, that class have been the greatest sufferers from the introduction of machinery, for it has taken from them the only employment which they had strength to perform, and their sole means of subsistence.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church stands at the distance of about 600 yards north of Glasserton House. It is surrounded

with wood. It is nearly in the centre of Glasserton pleasure-grounds, which Mr Stewart of Physgill, the present proprietor, has greatly enlarged. The lawn or park in which the church stands is exceedingly beautiful, and the most extensive of any in this part of the country, containing upwards of 150 acres of the richest pasture ground, ornamented with plantations, as well as an immense number of single trees scattered over its whole surface, tastefully and judiciously arranged, so as to produce the finest effect in passing along the approaches to Glasserton. Many of the single trees were transplanted on Sir Henry Steuart's plan.

The church was built in the year 1732, exactly in the same style in which all country churches were built about that period. It is still strong and substantial both in walls and roof, but too small for the increasing population; for at present it contains only about 270 sittings in the under part of the church. The galleries are private property, belonging to the family of Physgill and Glasserton; each of these estates having a gallery, but they both belong to the same family. The heritors, however, have agreed to make an addition, by adding an aisle to the old church: and at the end of the aisle, is to be erected a handsome tower, 68 feet in height. The work is contracted for, materials provided, and on the 19th May 1836, the tradesmen commenced building.\* The old church also is to be seated anew, and otherwise repaired. There have been no free sittings in the church hitherto, but it is proposed that some part of the addition shall be free.

The church is much nearer the east than the west end of the parish. The parish appears to have been formed by the junction of two parishes, Glasserton and Kirkmaiden. But there are no documents to show at what time this annexation had taken place. A part of the walls of Kirkmaiden church still remain pretty entire. It is situated near the sea shore, not far from Monrieth. It lies close to the bottom of the Heughs, or rather it is embosomed in a kind of recess formed by these steep hills. The road to it winds down the brow of the hill, and at last ends in a flight of steps leading into the church-yard. The slope of the surrounding hill is covered with young wood. Altogether it is scarcely possible to conceive that a church could be placed in a more romantic situation. It is indeed a beautiful sequestered spot, but never could have been a convenient situation for a church, for it lies in a corner where even

\* The addition and repairs here alluded to have since been completed: and the church now contains 400 sittings.

now the population is small, and must have been much smaller in those times, when it was frequented as a place of worship. It is still used as burial ground by some of the old residents in this parish; and Sir William Maxwell's family, though not residing in the parish, have their burial-place within the walls of the old church of Kirkmaiden.

The attendance on public worship in this parish is regular, notwithstanding of many disadvantages, such as the length of the parish, the church not being in the centre. Besides, there is no village near it, and the population in the neighbourhood is small, as the greater part of Glasserton estate is in pasture ground. A very handsome house and stable has been built by Mr Stewart of Physgill, at the church gate, entirely for the accommodation of the parish,—which certainly has removed many of the inconveniences to which we allude. More accommodation at times would, no doubt, be desirable.

The manse was built in 1818, is commodious, substantial, and in good repair. The glebe contains about 15 Scotch acres, and might, perhaps, be valued at L. 20 a-year. The minister's stipend averages about L. 190. The original valuation being mostly in money, it is subject to no great variation. The teinds are exhausted by the present stipend.

Dissenters have changed their tactics very much lately. In my younger days, they were proud to be considered, or rather to consider themselves, the *chosen few*. Now, there is no possibility of satisfying them with numbers. They are determined to be considered as the *many*, and that distinction, which they were formerly so proud of, they are now extremely desirous should be conferred upon the Established Church. And as I should be sorry to disturb them, even in their dreams, I shall refrain from saying how few they are, though truth will not permit me to say that they are many. But, what is far more to the purpose, the Dissenting families which are old residents in the parish are both prudent and respectable; they maintain their own opinions, and worship God according to the dictates of their own conscience, without giving the least offence to any of their neighbours. We have no voluntaries, at least as far as I know; but it is really difficult to speak with precision, from the fact of the farm-servants, bound-workers, and day-labourers being in a state of continual fluctuation; they change from parish to parish so frequently, that

a clergyman has not the means of knowing their religious tenets and their speculative opinions.

*Education.*—There is an excellent school-house and schoolmaster's house. The schoolmaster's salary is the maximum, that is, L. 34 a-year. The school fees may amount to L. 25 a-year. The school-house is not at the church, but two miles west, upon the road leading to Monrieth and Port-William. It stands nearly in the centre of the parish, but certainly not in the middle of the population, for a circle drawn round it with the radius of a mile would not contain many houses.

There is another school in the north-west end of the parish, at Ravenstone, to which there is annexed, besides the school-fees, a salary of L. 15 per annum,—L. 10 of which are contributed by Mrs Stewart of Physgill, and L. 5 by Mrs Hathorn of Castle-wigg, who also joined in a general subscription for erecting the school-house and schoolmaster's house. These are built on the property of the Earl of Stair, who granted the ground rent-free for that purpose.

Education at these schools costs from 2s. to 3s. a quarter for reading, writing, and arithmetic. The children of the poor are taught free at the parish school, at the recommendation of the heritors and kirk-session. And when applications of this kind are so numerous, that the session consider them too burdensome to the schoolmaster, they pay him from the poor's funds, at a lower rate than the usual wages; and not unfrequently poor children are sent to school at the expense of charitable individuals in the neighbourhood. Altogether, the means of instruction are perfectly accessible to the poorest individuals; and there is no such thing to be found in this parish as children of six or seven years of age who cannot read. The population, however, is too thinly scattered to admit of infant schools, consequently, their first instructions are received from their parents at home, chiefly from their mother; and then, whenever they have strength enough to travel two or three miles, they are sent to school. The people are perfectly alive to the advantages of education, and make every effort to have their children suitably instructed.

Schoolmasters sometimes complain of the difficulties of collecting their fees; but I believe there is less foundation for this complaint than is generally believed. I have known many who are exceedingly poor, that would rather want some of their own necessary sustenance than have their children's education neglected;

and they consider school wages as a debt of honour, which they would pay, though they had nothing left, or though other debts should not be discharged. I must, however, admit, that these honourable feelings were more general thirty years ago than they are now. The habit of receiving assistance diminishes exertion; and the habit of receiving charity destroys the spirit of independence.

*Poor.*—The number of poor in this parish is not great, varying perhaps from 15 to 20; but not more than a half of these are supported entirely from the church funds. Some of them receive from 5s. to 10s. per quarter; and their other wants are supplied by their own industry, or the aid and assistance of their relatives, and the private charity of their neighbours. But though the number of poor is not great, and the allowance for their support very little, yet the demand upon the poor funds exceeds the supply, and requires to be eked out by a voluntary contribution of L. 13 per annum from the heritors. This is rendered necessary at present by having on our list two helpless idiots, and an individual who was born without either legs or arms, now about twenty-two years of age, and in perfect health. In such extraordinary cases as these we have recourse to the heritors. The collections at the church on Sundays may amount to L. 20 or L. 25 yearly; interest of money belonging to the funds to about L. 6; and fines, proclamations, and mortcloth-money may come to L. 6 or L. 8 more. This is the whole of our revenue, which cannot afford much to every one,—and, indeed, would be no very extravagant aliment for a single individual; and yet these poor people are contented and wonderfully happy. But still the tendency of pauperism here, as almost everywhere else, is to increase. The poor list has been nearly doubled since I came to this parish in 1813; and the collections more than doubled.

*Drawn up 1836, Revised December 1838.*

# PARISH OF WHITHORN.

PRESBYTERY OF WIGTON, SYNOD OF GALLOWAY.

THE REV. CHRISTOPHER NICHOLSON, MINISTER.

---

## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name, Boundaries, &c.*—THE ancient names of *Candida Casa*, *Leucophibia* or *Leucopibia*, by which this town and parish were formerly described, and the name Whithern or Whithorn, by which it is now known, seem to have had the same origin. In Bede's history, mention is made of a church built of stone and lime in this place, which is generally admitted to have been the first that was erected in Scotland of these materials, and which, of course, was denominated in the Roman language *Candida Casa*. *Leucophibia*, or *Leucopibia*, seems to be a corruption of *λευκο-οικία*, the Greek for a white house; and Hwitaern, which transcribers have changed into Whithern, and now into Whithorn, is compounded of two Saxon words, both signifying the same thing, as the Greek word.

This parish is upwards of 8 miles in its extreme length from north to south, and 5 in its extreme breadth from east to west. It is so irregular as a whole, that there is no mathematical figure by which it can be described. It is bounded on the north and east by the parish of Sorbie; on the south-east by Wigton Bay; on the south by the Irish Sea; and on the west by the parish of Glasserton: and contains about 10,000 imperial acres.

*Topographical Appearances.*—In point of scenery, this parish has nothing to boast of; the surface is almost level, and has neither mountain nor glen, hill nor dale, wood nor forest, to interrupt its uniformity. At the same time, it is abundantly diversified by a great variety of knolls of all shapes and sizes, generally consisting of gravel or rock, covered with a thin layer of earth sufficient to nourish whins, sloe-bushes, and briars, with which they are usually covered,—the only shrubs that seem to grow spontaneously,—and which, viewed at a distance, give the most fertile parts of the parish a very barren appearance.

*Hydrography.*—There is nothing in this parish deserving the

name of a river, as might be supposed from the narrow peninsular country in which it is situated. There are three burns, each of which turns a corn and barley-mill, where it falls into the sea. But though there are no rivers and few burns, the parish is well watered with innumerable perennial limpid rills, which are of the utmost benefit to the comfort of the inhabitants, and the health and improvement of the cattle. There is a weak chalybeate spring at the Isle of Whithorn, occasionally resorted to by invalids. The lakes that were formerly in the parish have been drained, and all of that description that remains is a few mosses and marl pits.

*Meteorology.*—The soil in this parish and district is, in general, dry,—the air pure, mild, and temperate. Epidemic diseases and malignant fevers are of rare occurrence. There has been no instance of spasmodic cholera in this parish. Many of the inhabitants attain the age of eighty years; a few ninety and upwards. The medium temperature of the atmosphere is about 48°. The prevailing winds are the south-west and west, excepting in the spring months, when the parish is frequently visited with gales from the east, which are extremely hurtful to vegetation. The heaviest rains are from the south, south-east, and south-west. The winters for several years have been so extremely mild, that many black-cattle have been wintered in the pastures without fodder. Frost and snow have been of such rare occurrence, and of such short continuance, that the children in Whithorn run the risk of becoming as incredulous about the effect of cold upon water as the Emperor of China.

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—The soil of a considerable portion of this parish consists of a rich vegetable mould of no great depth, but exceedingly fertile, affording the most succulent and nutritious pasture and excellent crops, when there is a sufficiency of moisture in the month of May. When there is a deficiency of moisture at that season, the pastures are but scanty, and the crops light. The most productive soil rests upon rock; where the subsoil is till, the ground is less fertile, and the pastures and crops much later. The rocks invariably dip to the west, and generally belong to the greywacke series. There are no continued beds of granite, but large detached blocks are met with here and there. The shore is everywhere rugged and rocky. At Burrowhead, the coast is particularly bold, and the rocks, from their perpendicular height, magnificent and sublime, rising to a height of 200 feet, and perforated here and there with deep caves. Trial has been repeat-

edly made for coal, but hitherto without success. Upon the estate of Tonderghie, close by the shore, a mining company, belonging to Wales, sunk a shaft to a considerable depth in quest of copper, and succeeded in discovering a small scattered vein, and procured a few very rich specimens of ore. The attempt was discontinued at a time when every interest in the country was involved in general distress.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Burgh.*—Whithorn, which was constituted a royal burgh by James IV. in 1511, is governed by a provost, two bailies, and fifteen councillors, and one of four that return a Member to Parliament. The burgh of Whithorn consists chiefly of one street, running from north to south, which is very irregular, being inconveniently narrow at both extremities, and uselessly wide in the middle. The town-house and gaol were removed about twenty years ago from the middle of the street, where they formerly stood, and are now erected upon the west side of the street, about the centre of the town, and ornamented with a steeple. The dwelling-houses have been much improved since the termination of the war with France, many old ones having been pulled down, and new ones erected on the same site. This change seems rather to have been owing to the reduction of interest than the demand for better dwellings, as many who had money in the banks were of opinion that it could be invested in houses to more advantage,—which experience seems not to justify. The burgh has a small revenue, about L. 100 yearly, arising from harbour-dues and fees.

*Eminent Men.*—St Ninian was born in this place or neighbourhood during the fourth century; and to that circumstance it seems to have owed its celebrity as a religious establishment. This eminent individual went to Rome about the year 370, where he was ordained Bishop of Britons. Upon his return to his native place, he there founded a church, which he dedicated to his uncle, St Martin of Tours in France, and within the walls of which he was afterwards buried. This church has been so completely dilapidated by the lapse of time and the ruthless hand of man, that only a few old arches remain to tell of its original grandeur. There was also erected here a famous priory of the Premonstratensian order, by Fergus, Lord of Galloway, who flourished in the reign of David I., in which some of the innumerable relics of St Ninian were deposited. Hither pilgrims resorted from distant places, not only of Scotland but of England and Ireland, attracted by the remark-



able veneration in which the very name and memory of St Ninian were held. Even royalty itself paid honours to his memory; for in the summer of 1473, Margaret, Queen of James III., made a pilgrimage to Whithorn, and James IV., during his reign, made not only one but several pilgrimages to the sepulchre of St Ninian. There were belonging to this place two famous priors, the one called Gavin Dunbar, afterwards Archbishop of Glasgow, the other James Beton, Archbishop of Glasgow, next of St Andrews, and Chancellor of Scotland. (For more minute information, consult Murray's *Lit. Hist. of Galloway*.)

*Antiquities.*—In this parish, there are the remains of a Roman camp about half a mile to the west of the town of Whithorn, on the lands of Stair H. Stewart, Esq. There are likewise several forts or castles upon the shore, all looking towards the Isle of Man,—which had possibly been erected to protect the country against the inroads of the Scandinavians, who made that island the place of their rendezvous. One of the old arches in the churchyard, purely of the Saxon order, and almost entire, is much admired, as the most perfect of its kind that exists in the country. There is also in the churchyard a large vault, and others have lately been discovered apparently of great extent, and which there is no doubt were attached to the priory. Roman coins also are not unfrequently found in the grounds adjoining the site of the priory. At the Isle of Whithorn, a marine village, about three miles south of the burgh, there are the remains of the walls of an old church of very small dimensions, which is reported (not without probability) to have been the first place of Christian worship built in North Britain.

*Land-owners.*—The chief land-owners in the parish are, the Earl of Galloway; Hugh Hathorn, Esq. of Castlewigg; Stair H. Stewart, Esq. of Physgill and Glasserton; Alexander Murray, Esq. of Broughton; Hugh D. Stewart, Esq. of Tonderghie; Sir Andrew Agnew of Lochnaw, Bart.; and two or three small crofters. Two of the principal heritors reside in the parish, namely, Hugh Hathorn, Esq. of Castlewigg, and Hugh D. Stewart, Esq. of Tonderghie.

*Parochial Registers.*—The earliest parochial register, containing births, baptisms, marriages, poor-roll, and funds, goes no farther back than 1796. The register of births and baptisms has been very irregularly kept, owing to the negligence of parents.

## III.—POPULATION.

The population of this parish in 1831, amounted to 2415, viz.

In the burgh of Whithorn	-	-	-	-	1305
In the Isle of Whithorn,	-	-	-	-	413
In the country,	-	-	-	-	697
Number of families in the parish,	-	-	-	-	586
employed in agriculture,	-	-	-	-	102
in trade, manufactures, and handicraft,	-	-	-	-	151
all other families,	-	-	-	-	333

*Character, &c. of the People.*—The chief occupation is agriculture, and such pursuits as are requisite for the improvement of the soil. The families originally belonging to the parish are generally sober, honest, and industrious; the families which have immigrated from Ireland are not deserving of such a character. Potatoes are the principal food of the Irish families during three-quarters of the year, and even in labourers' families of Scottish descent, occupy a chief place both at dinner and supper.

## IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—The whole surface of the parish is arable, excepting a small extent of peat-moss, a few marl bogs, and the knolls with which the surface is occasionally broken. The extent of meadow land is small, not exceeding 200 acres. Plantations are confined to a few rows and clumps, excepting around the mansion-house of Castlewigg, where forest trees cover a larger extent of ground.

*Rent of Land.*—The rent varies much according to locality and quality. Crofts in the immediate vicinity of the burgh and the Isle of Whithorn, which are let out in small extent for the accommodation of the inhabitants, rent on an average as high as L. 3 per imperial acre; large farms of the best description of soil at L. 1, 10s. and inferior farms from 12s. to 16s. per imperial acre. The rent of the parish is about L. 9000 yearly.

*Rate of Wages.*—Ploughmen of the first excellence, living in the farmer's house, receive from L. 10, 10s. to L. 12, 12s. yearly. Workmen living in their own families generally receive a benefit, which prevents the amount of their wages from being accurately ascertained,—as that to a certain extent depends on the price of provisions; but it may be fixed somewhere betwixt L. 20 and L. 25 yearly. Female servants receive from L. 2, 5s. to L. 3 the half year; male labourers in the summer 1s. 4d. to 1s. 6d.; and females 8d. to 9d. a-day. During the harvest, males and females earn the same wages; in ordinary harvests about 2s. per day without meat, and 1s. 6d. with food; occasionally 2s. 6d. and even 3s. without food; masons, 2s. 6d., and joiners, 2s. 3d. without board.

*Breed of Live-Stock.*—Formerly the Galloway breed of cattle was universally reared in this parish, and the greatest attention was paid to its improvement. Farmers from other parts of the country, desirous of improving their breeding stock, regularly applied to the farmers in this parish for young bulls and queys. Of late years, dairies have been introduced, and the Ayrshire breed is threatening to supplant the Galloway. The young cattle that were formerly reared in this country, and driven into England to be fed for the London market, are now to a considerable extent kept in the country until they are fit for the butcher market, and others shipped to Liverpool. The favourite breed of horses for the cart and plough is a low, flat, heavy-bodied, and rough legged breed : sheep, a cross betwixt the Leicester ram and the Mug and Cheviot ewe.

*Husbandry.*—Farming in this district is every day arriving at higher excellence. The bone manure has given such an impetus to green crop, that turnip husbandry during the last ten years has increased at least tenfold. The turnips are partly eaten off with sheep, and partly lifted for cattle fed in stalls. The rotation generally practised by crofters is the six year shift, a white crop, a green crop, a white crop with grass seeds, a hay crop, and two years in pasture. Upon large farms, the nine or ten years shift,—two white crops, a green crop, a white crop with grass seeds, a hay crop, and four or five years in pasture. Wheat is not cultivated to any extent, as it exhausts the strength of the land, and is very detrimental to both hay and pasture. As to the produce of the parish,—that depends upon so many circumstances, and is so various, one year differing so much from another, that any attempt at ascertaining its extent would be mere conjecture. A farmer, for instance, one year fatted upwards of fourscore swine; other years, much fewer. An acre of wheat one year may yield 20 bushels; and the same extent of ground next year, 40. The farmers in general are very comfortably lodged, with farm-steadings suitable for the dimensions of the farms, and both dwelling-houses and offices covered with slate. The duration of leases is from twelve to nineteen years. The crofts around the town are usually let for twelve years, and the large farms for nineteen.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Means of Communication.*—The parish is easy of access both by land and water. At the isle, there is a very safe and commodious harbour, where a quay or pier was erected above forty years ago by

the assistance of the Convention of Royal Burghs; from which, small vessels sail every week to Whitehaven and other English ports, and which is occasionally visited by the Galloway steamer on her way to and from Liverpool. There are public roads from Wigton and Garliestown to the Isle of Whithorn, and from Whithorn to Port William and Stranraer. A mail-coach traverses the parish, passing through the burgh from west to east in the forenoon, and from east to west in the evening.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church is very happily situated upon a rising ground to the west of the burgh, in its immediate vicinity, and no situation more convenient for the country population could be found. A few years ago, this place of worship was in a very ruinous condition. In 1822, the heritors erected a very substantial, commodious new church, with ample accommodation for 800 sitters, besides free seats for a very considerable number of those who have no room in the church, and no means of procuring any. The church is regularly well attended, and the number of communicants is about 600.

Besides the church, there are three other places of worship, one belonging to the Associate Synod, another to the Reformed Presbyterian Synod, and a third to the Roman Catholics. Two of these have no settled pastor; the congregations attending them are widely dispersed over different parishes, and very inconsiderable in number, compared with the congregation attending the Established Church.

The number of families belonging to the Established Church is 420; of families belonging to the Associate Synod, 45; to the Cameronians, 27; Roman Catholic families, 12. There are a considerable number of poor Irish families that belong to no place of worship.

The manse was built twenty-four years ago, and is spacious and commodious. The glebe contains about 6 acres of rich arable ground, and would give a rent of about L. 20 per annum. The stipend is 17 chalders, half meal and half barley, with L. 10 Sterling for communion elements; and was augmented in 1826.

*Education.*—There are two parochial schools, and not fewer than nine other schools. The salary of one parochial schoolmaster is two chalders of meal and L. 6 for house rent. The salary of the other is one chalders of meal. Their school wages do not exceed L. 60 per annum. They have no other emoluments. The number of children attending the different schools during the winter

season, cannot be less than between 300 and 400. All the usual branches of education are taught in both the parochial schools; and in the other schools English reading, arithmetic, and writing. There are none in the parish descended from Scottish parents, that have attained the years of discretion uneducated. There are four Sabbath schools in the parish, well attended by children, who also receive family instruction in their own dwellings. Such as are neglected by their parents, seldom seek religious instruction from teachers.

*Savings Bank.*—An institution of this kind has existed for nearly twenty years, much to the benefit of individuals and families. The money deposited in it, is seldom below L. 2400, or above L. 2600. The money deposited and drawn during the year amounts to about L. 800.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—There are 70 paupers upon the poor's roll at present, who receive assistance every quarter of the year, a few to the extent of L. 4 yearly, and the rest betwixt L. 1 and L. 2. The funds for the poor arise out of collections in the church, proclamation dues, mortcloth hire, and voluntary contributions from the heritors. The heritors' contributions amount to about L. 50 a-year. The kirk-session in ordinary years distribute about L. 120, and the collections in the church average about L. 60 yearly.

*Fuel.*—The parish is supplied with peats to a considerable extent, and where peats are too distant to be sought after, with Whitehaven coals discharged from sloops at the Isle of Whithorn, and sold at 1s. per bushel of three Winchester. Irish families generally depend upon whins and brambles, which they carry in burdens upon their backs, to the no small annoyance of proprietors and farmers through whose grounds they travel.

*Fairs and Markets.*—There are two fairs in the year,—the one at Midsummer, and the other at Lammas; and a monthly cattle market from April to January.

*Friendly Societies.*—A few years ago, there were two Friendly Societies; but the disbursements did not correspond with the contributions, and they are now both extinct.

*Public-Houses.*—These are all situated in the Burgh and Isle of Whithorn, and are at the very least five times more numerous than they ought to be. Every one that asks a license obtains it; and the magistrates justify their conduct in granting licenses by saying it is an evil that will cure itself.

## MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The greatest grievance that is felt in this parish at present, and which is most detrimental to its respectability and improvement, is the extent of emigration, and the description of people that emigrate. Our native labourers and artisans, with their little property and many virtues, are drifting across the Atlantic, and Ireland, from her exhaustless store, is supplying their place. The number of Irish families that every year take up their abode in this place is almost incredible. These are possessed of nothing but a number of naked, starving children. The supply of labourers usually exceeds the demand, and wages are thereby reduced so low, that Scottish labourers who wish to feed, clothe, and educate their children, have it not in their power, and are compelled to seek in a foreign country what is denied them in their own. The children of Irish parents are driven out to seek food where they can find it; and if clad and educated they are so at the expense of others. Unless means are immediately devised for arresting the progress of such a national calamity, the labourers in Scotland will soon be reduced to the level of the lowest of the Irish; and the only means of accomplishing this is a legal provision for the poor Irish in their own country.

January 1839.

---

**PARISH OF MOCHRUM.**

PRESBYTERY OF WIGTON, SYNOD OF GALLOWAY.

THE REV. ALEXANDER YOUNG, MINISTER.\*

---

**L.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.**

*Extent, Boundaries.*—THE greatest length of the parish from east to west is about 10 miles, and the greatest breadth between 4 and 5 miles. It is bounded on the south, by the Bay of Luce; on the west, by the parish of Old Luce; on the north, by Kirkowan and Kirkinner; and on the east, by Glasserton.

*Surface, Soil, and Climate.*—“ The general appearance of the surface cannot be denominated either level or mountainous; it is partly both. The flats, however, are not extensive, nor are the hills of

\* From Notes furnished by the parochial Schoolmaster of Mochrum.

great elevation ; but, being intermixed with each other, at moderate distances, they exhibit a variety of prospect not unpleasing to the traveller, nor unprofitable to the owner. From the eastern boundary, along the Bay of Luce, for several miles, the soil, with a few exceptions, is excellent, being mostly of a fine light, and in some places, a strong deep loam. Approaching towards the centre of the parish, it becomes gradually more thin and stony, while a large extent, on the east and west sides, mostly consisting of rocky eminences, or mossy swamps and lakes, exhibits a bleak and barren prospect, and is chiefly used for pasture. There are, however, scattered up and down in this bleak region, some small pieces of good dry arable land. Owing, perhaps, to the general dryness of the soil, the openness of the country, and its fine exposure to the sea air, the climate is remarkably healthful.

“*Sea Coast.*—A flat smooth gravel beach, mostly about 50 yards wide, runs along from the eastern, till within a mile of the western extremity of the parish, where it is intercepted by a steep rocky hill projecting into the sea, and forming a bold inaccessible shore.

“ Parallel to the beach, the land, rising suddenly, forms a steep bank or precipice, which renders the access from the shore into the country, in many places, rather difficult.”\*

*Geology.*—Here, as in the county generally, the rocks belong to the Neptunian series of the transition class.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Land-owners.*—The chief land-owners in the parish are, Sir William Maxwell, Bart. and the Marquis of Bute.

The real rental of the parish is about L. 8000 per annum.

*Parochial Registers.*—In these, births, marriages, and all matters of church discipline are recorded ; but until the settlement of the present incumbent in 1822, there were no parochial registers regularly kept.

“*Antiquities.*—Near by the church, which is situated about a mile right into the parish from Port-William, there is a pretty large earthen mound, quite entire, with a deep ditch or *fosse* round it.

“ On the eastern extremity of the sea coast, at the summit of a steep bank, there are very distinct remains of an Anglo-Saxon camp. And, within two miles of the western extremity, also hard by the shore, stand the ruins of a small manse and church, called *St Finian's Chapel*, probably from the famous Saint of that name.

\* Vide Old Stat. Account.

“ In the middle of the moor-land appears an old tower or castle, whose walls are very strong, and almost entire ; and being nearly surrounded by lakes, when viewed at a distance it has a most curious and picturesque appearance, resembling much a large ship at sea.

“ It is called *the old Place of Mochrum* ; and formerly belonged, together with a considerable estate contiguous to it, to an ancient family, of the name of *Dunbar*, who resided in it, were created Knights of Mochrum about a century ago, and still enjoy that title. But the castle and the property have now, for about one hundred years, been in possession of the Earl of Dumfries, now Marquis of Bute.”\*

*Mansion-Houses.*—The principal mansion-house in the parish is that of Monreith, belonging to Sir William Maxwell. There are five or six smaller mansions.

*Eminent Characters.*—The Dunbars settled in Mochrum so early as the year 1368, Thomas Dunbar, the first of Mochrum, who was second son of Patrick, Earl of March, having got a grant of the lands in question and others in that year. The Mochrum branch of the Dunbars were long eminent, and cadets of this house founded the families of Dunbar of Baldoon, (now represented by the Earl of Selkirk,) and Dunbar of Clugston. But the most eminent person of this name was Gavin Dunbar, son of Sir John Dunbar of Mochrum, and ultimately Archbishop of Glasgow, and Lord Chancellor of Scotland. Gavin having studied at Glasgow, was appointed Prior of Whithorn about the year 1504, as successor to James Beaton, whom he afterwards succeeded in the see of Glasgow. Dunbar, being, says Keith, “ a man of polite letters,” was appointed preceptor to the young King James V. ; a trust which he discharged so satisfactorily, that on the see of Glasgow becoming vacant in 1522, he was nominated to that dignity. In 1526, he was appointed Lord Chancellor ; and in 1536, when the King went to France, on his marriage to Magdalene, daughter of Francis I. his Lordship was chosen one of the Lords of the Regency. When Lord Maxwell, in the year 1542, made a motion in Parliament to the effect that the Bible be allowed to be read in our vernacular tongue, Archbishop Dunbar opposed it. The motion was, however, carried, but he entered the dissent against the decision in his own name, and in that of “ all the prelates of the realm.” He died in 1547. The family of Moch-

\* Vide Old Statistical Account.



rum was raised to the baronetage in 1694, and is now represented by Sir William Rowe Dunbar, Bart. (Murray's *Literary Hist. of Galloway*, 2d edit. 1832, p. 14-17.) The Maxwells, Baronets of Monreith, have been settled in the parish for about two centuries. John Maxwell, younger of Monreith, having joined the Covenanters, and having been present at the battle of Pentland, in 1666, was exposed to much suffering and persecution. Though not in custody, he with many others were tried for treason and rebellion, and were condemned "to be executed to death, and demeaned as traitors, when they shall be apprehended." (Wodrow's *Church Hist.* Vol. ii. p. 73-5.) But Maxwell, though he made several narrow escapes, never fell into the hands of his enemies. He was pronounced by the famous Colonel Wallace "the greatest Christian that he knew in his station;" and his name is honourably connected with the ecclesiastical history of his times. (*Memoirs of Veitch and Brysson*, p. 381.) The Maxwells of Monreith can also boast of having given birth to a family, several of whom have distinguished themselves. We refer to the family of Captain James Maxwell, youngest son of Sir William Maxwell of Monreith. Captain Maxwell had eight sons, of whom the following attained to distinction; Major Stewart Maxwell, author of an excellent poem, entitled "The Battle of the Bridge, or Pisa Defended, in ten cantos," who died in 1824; Captains Keith and John Maxwells, who both distinguished themselves in the naval service, (James's *Naval Hist.* Vol. iii. p. 214); and Sir Murray Maxwell, the commander of the *Alceste* which conveyed Lord Amherst as Ambassador to China. The Chinese having insulted the officers and crew of the *Alceste*, Captain Maxwell resolved to chastise them for their temerity. He chastised them accordingly, having himself fired the first gun, thus rendering himself personally responsible for the consequences of the attack. The *Alceste* was wrecked by striking on a sunken rock on her return home; a misfortune from which Captain Maxwell's character received even an additional brilliancy. The narratives of Captain Basil Hall and Mr M'Leod, surgeon of the *Alceste*, descriptive of this calamity, as well as illustrative of the expedition generally, form about the most interesting works of the kind known to us. On the accession of his late Majesty William IV. Sir Murray was nominated one of his naval aide-de-camps; and in 1831 he was appointed Governor of Prince Edward's Island. On receiving notice of this appointment, he left Scotland in a vessel for London;

but being seized with fever, and there being no medical man on board, he died soon after his arrival in London, leaving behind him a name for professional merit, general honour, and integrity of character inferior to none. (Murray's *Literary History of Galway*, 2d ed. 1832, pp. 283-92, 343-4.)

### III.—POPULATION.

In the former Statistical Account, it is observed, "there is, perhaps, no country parish in the county that has increased so much in population as Mochrum for these last twenty years. The inhabitants, who now amount to 1400, it is certain, did not exceed half the number previous to that period. This increase has been almost entirely effected on Sir William Maxwell's estate, who, carrying on extensive plans of improvement upon the lands which he held in his own natural possession, had occasion to employ a number of additional labourers, and these happening to consist mostly of young, stout, newly married Irishmen, this prolific race soon contributed largely to the human stock."

Amount of population, as per Government census in 1801,	-	1113
1811,	-	1345
1821,	-	1871
1831,	..	2105
Population in villages,	-	1000
in the country,	-	1100
Number of families in the parish in 1831,	-	641
chiefly employed in agriculture,	-	394
in trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	-	65

Number of illegitimate births in the parish during last three years, 12.

### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—The number of imperial acres in the parish, either cultivated or occasionally in tillage, is 26,880; the number of acres under wood is about 200; the number of acres that might, with a profitable application of capital, be added to the cultivated land, probably 1000. In matters of agriculture there has been a great increase of practical knowledge in this parish within the last forty years: and the effect has been a corresponding increase in the amount of agricultural produce.

*Navigation.*—The number of vessels of all burthens belonging to the parish is 12; and the number of tons burthen of all such vessels 746.

### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Means of Communication.*—A mail-coach passes and repasses through the parish each lawful day: and letters, newspapers, &c.

are received and delivered at Port-William, the principal village and only sea-port of the parish.

The market-towns of Whithorn and Wigton are equidistant from the parish.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The number of families in the parish attending the Established Church is about 300 : of Dissenting or Seceding families, 40 : of Roman Catholic families, 35.

The stipend of the parochial minister amounts to L. 157, 14s. 1d. The value of the glebe may be about L. 25 per annum.

There is a small chapel in the parish belonging to the Relief persuasion, but abundantly large for those of that denomination belonging to the parishes of Mochrum, Glasserton, and Kirkinner.

A large addition was built to the manse of the parochial minister, by the heritors, when the present incumbent succeeded in 1822 ; and it is at present in excellent repair.

*Education.*—Number of schools in the parish, 5, and no more are required. All the native inhabitants of the parish above six years of age can read ; but about thirty natives of Ireland residing in the parish cannot read. The amount of the parochial school-master's salary is L. 26 per annum ; and L. 5 are allowed him for house and garden. His fees may amount to L. 12 per annum, and his other emoluments to L. 2.

*Poor.*—The number of persons receiving parochial aid is 40, and the average sum allotted to each is about L. 2 per annum. The sum collected for the poor in the church amounts on an average to L. 69, 15s. There is no legal assessment. The amount received from alms or legacies may be about L. 15 per annum.

*January 1839.*

## PARISH OF OLD LUCE.

PRESBYTERY OF STRANRAER, SYNOD OF GALLOWAY.

THE REV. JOHN M'DOWALL, MINISTER.

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—It appears that this parish was anciently denominated Leuce; but the northern district having been cut off and formed into a separate parish in 1646, was afterwards called *New Luce*; and the southern district *Old Luce*. In some old Latin documents, dated in the year 1560, it is called *Vallis Lucis*, (the valley of light,)—a name probably assigned it, because the whole origin parish was intersected by a deep and wide valley, running from the northern to the southern extremity, and in the middle of which an abbey or monastery was situated,—*the light of the valley*.

*Extent, Boundaries, &c.*—The parish of Old Luce, lying in the centre of Wigtonshire, comprehends about 80 square miles, being 10 miles long, and 8 or 8½ broad, and resembling in figure an oblong square or parallelogram. It is bounded on the north, by New Luce; on the west, by Inch and Stonykirk; on the south, by the Bay of Luce; and on the east, by Kirkowan and Mochrum.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The general aspect of the parish is very irregular, the surface being for the most part hilly, and containing comparatively little level land, except in the vicinity of the Bay of Luce, and on the sides of the river, which runs through the valley already referred to. The elevation, however, of the highest hills does not exceed 1014 feet above the level of the sea. The climate, compared with that of other parishes in Galloway, is temperate.

*Bay—Coast.*—The Bay of Luce winds round the southern coast of Wigtonshire, from the Mull of Galloway to Burrow-head, in Whithorn, and comprehends at least 400 square miles. Some parts of its coast are sandy, some gravelly, and some clayey. Within two miles of Glenluce, it affords a harbour (Burn-foot) for small vessels importing lime, coals, &c.; but usually vessels of

more than 60 or 70 tons burden cannot approach that part of the coast.

*Hydrography.*—The parish contains several small lakes or lochs; but they are too unimportant in all respects to require particular notice. The springs, which usually issue from rocks and the sides of hills, are numerous, unintermittent, extremely cold and transparent, but have nothing remarkable in their chemical nature. The principal rivers are Luce and Pooltanton. The river of Luce rises on the borders of Ayrshire, passes southward through New Luce and this parish, and discharges itself into the Bay of Luce. The length of its course is about 21 miles: the breadth of its channel may average 30 feet; and, unless with high floods, it is easily crossed on foot. Pooltanton is a small river rising in Leswalt, and running through a part of Inch, Stonykirk, and the southern extremity of Old Luce, till it falls into the Bay of Luce, nearly at the same place as the former river.

*Soil.*—All kinds of soil exist in the parish, but that which prevails is of a gravelly or sandy nature. The land, in general, is light, dry, and stony; but on the sides of the river of Luce, and in the southern parts of the parish, some land of better quality is found. The depth of the soil varies from six to twelve inches; but where it consists of moss, clay, or loam, its depth may vary from one to three feet. Unless in clayey or loamy land, the second stratum or subsoil is usually found to consist of sand or gravel, which extends to a considerable depth.

*Geology.*—The larger rocks are of common greywacke, with veins of quartz; but small rocks of granite also abound in various parts of the parish, and extensive tracts of slate might probably be found. A greywacke quarry, of some importance, has been wrought for several years in the immediate neighbourhood of Glenluce, where stones of great utility for various purposes have been obtained. No limestone, sandstone, nor mines of any description, have been discovered. In deep strata of moss, large trunks of trees, chiefly of oak, and nuts in an entire state, are often found; but other fossil remains or petrifications are seldom observed.

*Zoology.*—No rarer species of animals, birds, or insects are found in the parish. Foxes were once numerous, but for some years past have almost entirely disappeared. Game of every description abounds.

In the rivers of Luce and Pooltanton, salmon and sea-trout were once very abundant, but during the last fifteen or twenty

years their number has considerably decreased. For the three last seasons, the river of Luce has been preserved for rod-fishing only, with a view to increase the number of salmon,—which will probably have that effect.

In Pooltanton, scarcely any salmon are now caught ; but in the earlier part of the season, sea-trout, weighing from one to twelve pounds each, are taken with nets. The fishery of greatest importance is at the mouth or entrance of the river of Luce, where salmon and sea-trout are caught with set nets, which rise with the flowing of the tide, and enclose salmon, &c. when it recedes. The whole rental of the fishery on the coast and on these rivers may annually amount to L. 70 or L. 80. Shell-fish of various kinds, flounders, and cod fish, are also taken within the Bay of Luce.

*Plantations.*—A few plantations of no great extent, and consisting chiefly of oak, ash, pine, and the more common sorts of timber, lie on the southern part of the parish.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Some brief notices of this parish will be found in Chalmers's Caledonia, and Murray's Literary History of Galloway ; but we are not aware of the existence of any important historical accounts of it, either ancient or modern.

*Proprietors of Land.*—The chief land-owners are, the Earl of Stair ; Sir James Dalrymple Hay, Bart. ; Robert Cathcart, Esq. of Genoch ; John Adair, Esq. Balkail ; James Johnstone, Esq. Gillespie ; John Carrick Moore, Esq. of Corsewall ; William Gifford, Esq. ; and A. J. Hannay, M. D., Esq. Glasgow.

*Parochial Register.*—A session record has been kept in this parish since the year 1731, containing a registration of births, marriages, &c. from that time till the present.

*Antiquities—Abbey.*—The Abbey of Luce (the only antiquity of importance) stood on the side of the river, and in the middle of the valley which intersects the parish from north to south, about one mile and a quarter from Glenluce. It was founded in the year 1190, and was afterwards inhabited by monks of the Cistercian order. From the ruins, which cover a whole acre of ground, and from some of its walls, which are still standing, it appears to have been a very magnificent and extensive building. Nearly a century after other monasteries had been destroyed in Scotland, the Abbey of Luce remained almost in an entire state ; for so late as 1646, it is mentioned in the Records of the Presbytery of Stranraer as having sustained little injury. The Chapter-House, as it

is called, still remains entire,—a small apartment on the eastern side of the square, the roof of which is supported by a strong pillar, diverging at the top into eight arches, and terminating in the surrounding walls. The centres of the arches are ornamented with various figures, curiously cut out in white freestone. Thomas Hay, the lineal ancestor of Sir James D. Hay, Bart. (principal resident heritor,) was appointed Commendator of this monastery by the Pope of Rome, in the year 1560. A field adjoining the old building, and now forming a part of the present incumbent's glebe, had anciently been a burying-ground, and there the Commendator's family (the Hays of Park) have still their burial-place.

*Castles.*—This parish contains also three ancient castles, (one of which only is entire,) viz. the Castle of Park, formerly the residence of the family just referred to; Castle Synniness; and Carsecreuch, once the family residence of the Earl of Stair.

*Eminent Characters.*—Several eminent persons have been officially connected with the Abbey of Glenluce, of whom the most important were the two sons of Alexander Gordon, Bishop of Galloway, titular Archbishop of Athens, who died in 1576. Lawrence Gordon, second son of the bishop, was Abbot of this place for several years previously to 1606, the date of his death. In 1602, James VI. had erected, in his favour, Glenluce into a temporal barony, which at his death was conferred, by royal charter, on his elder brother John Gordon, Dean of Salisbury. This latter individual was a person of great condition, and an author of no mean reputation. For a minute list of his numerous literary publications, which are generally of an ecclesiastical or theological nature, see Murray's *Lit. History of Galloway*, 2d edition, p. 42. He died in 1619, and was succeeded in the barony of Glenluce by his son-in-law, Sir Robert Gordon of Gordonston, the celebrated historian of the family of Gordon. Glenluce was afterwards annexed to the see of Galloway, the revenue of which had, from various causes, been much reduced; and towards the end of the seventeenth century, it was again erected into a barony, and became the property of the Noble family of Stair. It may not be uninteresting to state the origin of the connection of that celebrated family with this parish and with Wigtonshire. James Dalrymple of Stair, the Professor of Philosophy in the University of Glasgow, married in 1643, Margaret Ross of Balniel, by whom he became possessed of Carsecreuch, Balniel, and other lands in this parish

This lady had an only sister, married to Sir Thomas Dunbar of Mochrum. James Dalrymple afterwards studied law, passed advocate at the Scottish Bar, was appointed one of the Lords of Session, and on the Revolution was elevated to the office of Lord President. He died in 1695, leaving behind him the highest character as a lawyer or a judge. His various publications are well known; but his "Institutions of the Law of Scotland," has always been regarded as by far the best work produced in this country in the department to which it belongs. He was raised to the peerage in 1690, and died in 1695. He rebuilt the house of Carsecreuch, which was his favourite country residence. His oldest son, who succeeded him, held some of the highest offices, and was a great promoter of the union between Scotland and England. His grandson was the great Marshal Stair. The family seat is now at Calhorn, in the neighbouring parish of Inch.

The Rev. Robert M<sup>c</sup>Ward, an eminent clergyman and theological and controversial writer during the reigns of Charles I and Charles II., was a native of this parish. He studied at St Andrews; and afterwards acted as amanuensis and private secretary to the celebrated Samuel Rutherford, while the latter was in London as a member of the Westminster Assembly of Divines. M<sup>c</sup>Ward successively held several high offices. He was elected Professor of Humanity in St Salvator's College, St Andrews, in 1650; Professor of Philosophy in the University of Glasgow in 1653; and one of the ministers of that city in 1656. On the Restoration, he was tried for sedition and treasonable preaching, and was sentenced to banishment forth of the kingdom, six months being allowed him to remove. He retired to Rotterdam. He was for some time one of the ministers of the Scottish Church in that city; but, owing to the interference of the English government, was obliged not only to resign that living, but to leave that town. He afterwards, however, ventured to return to it. He died there in 1681. He was supported while in Holland, before and after holding the ministerial office in Rotterdam, by the conjunct liberality of his Dutch and Scottish friends. He was the editor of Rutherford's Letters, which were first published in Rotterdam in 1664. His other works were, "The Poor Man's Cup of Cold Water;" "The True Non-Conformist;" "Banders Disbanded;" "A Testimony against paying of Cess to the Persecutors;" "Earnest Contendings for the Faith," and other publications, all of which were long popular in this country. About seventy of his letters, addressed to friends in Scotland, chiefly against the



*Indulgence*, have been preserved by Wodrow, and contain much biographical and other curious information.—(Murray's *Galloway*, 2d edit. pp. 107—14.)

III.—POPULATION.

The whole population of Old Luce in 1801 amounted to 1221. Of these 576 were males, and 645 females. The parish contained 220 inhabited houses, which were occupied by 253 families. Employed in agriculture, 414 persons; in trade and handicraft, 88; others not so employed, 719. From the beginning of the year 1780 to 1800, inclusive, 331 males and 306 females were baptised, making an average of 15 males and 14 females annually. Died during the same period 169 males and 223 females, making an average of 8 males and 10 females annually. Marriages during the same period 181, making an average of 8 annually.

In the year 1811 the total population amounted to 1536 : males, 758, females, 718. Inhabited houses, 296, occupied by 319 families. Employed in agriculture, 184 families; in trade, &c. 73; others not so employed, 62.

In the year 1821 the total population amounted to 1957 : males, 981, females, 976. Inhabited houses, 346, occupied by 382 families. Employed in agriculture, 648 persons; in trade, &c. 243; others not so employed, 1066. From the commencement of 1811 to 1820, inclusive, 264 males and 231 females were baptised. Annual average of males, 26, of females, 23. Died 84 males and 92 females. Average yearly of males dying, 8, of females, 9. Marriages, 118. Annual average of marriages, 11.

In the year 1831, the population amounted to 2180 : males 1037, females, 1143. Inhabited houses, 371, occupied by 430 families. Employed in agriculture, 264 families; in trade, &c. 117; others not so employed, 46.

The present population in the village of Glenluce amounts to 821. The average number of births for the last seven years, is annually, of males, 36, of females, 20. The average number of deaths during that time is, of males, 16, of females, 16 annually. The average number of marriages is 13.

The average number of children in each family is not ascertained.

Number of families in the parish in 1831,	430
chiefly employed in agriculture,	267
in trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	117

Number of illegitimate births in the parish during the last three years, 17.

*Character of the People.*—There is nothing which respects the personal qualities, prevailing customs, or habits of the inhabitants of this parish that deserves particular notice. The people generally are sober, honest, industrious, and attentive to religious duties, contented with their situation, and hospitable and friendly. Such, at least, is the prevailing character of the native inhabitants; but a continual influx of Irish immigrants, who obtain settlements in the parish, may in some degree prove unfavourable to the moral and religious character of the gross population.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

##### *Agriculture.*—

Number of imperial acres in the parish, either cultivated or occasionally in tillage,	30,000
Number of acres which never have been cultivated, but remain constantly waste or in pasture,	10,000
Number of acres under wood, of which 120 are under natural wood,	350

Perhaps some thousands of acres, in the moorland districts, which have hitherto remained untilled, might be reclaimed and profitably cultivated, if the tenants possessed sufficient capital, or had any prospect of being remunerated for the expense incurred.

*Live-Stock.*—In the moorland and pastoral parts of the parish, the breeding of black Galloway cattle has long been extensively adopted, on account of their superior value. For these cattle a higher price has always been obtained than for others of equal age and size, their beef being considered of finer quality. A breed of white and grey-faced sheep, with fine short wool and horns, has been gradually exchanged, within the last twenty years, for a larger species (black-faced, horned, with long coarse wool,) brought from Ayrshire and the Highlands.

*Value of Land.*—The average value of good arable land is probably about L. 1, 10s. per acre; but its value varies in different parts, according to the depth and nature of the soil.

*Acres under Crop.*—There are annually about 400 acres of wheat under crop; 1350 of oats; 454 of ryegrass; 259 of meadow hay; 60 of peas and beans; 467 of potatoes; and 160 of turnips.

*Dairies.*—In the southward part of the parish, dairies have of late become very general, and upwards of 6000 stones of cheese are annually produced.

*Rabbits.*—On the sandy coast of the Bay of Luce rabbits exist in great numbers; and about 1500 dozen are killed yearly.

*Wages.*—Male servants, capable of performing all kinds of farm-work, receive each about L. 9 in cash, 3 bolls and 4 stones of

oatmeal, and 5 bolls of potatoes per year ; besides being furnished with a house, garden, and fuel. Male servants unmarried, living in farm-houses, and doing the same work, receive each for the same term of service about L. 10 ; common labourers usually receive 1s. 2d. per day in summer, and 1s. in winter. Female servants in farm-houses receive each about L. 5 per year.

*Improvements.*—Twenty years ago, the whole arable land in the parish of Old Luce was comparatively in an uncultivated state. Scarcely any wheat, barley, beans, peas, or turnips were produced, even in the cultivated districts, and not more than one-fifth of the annual quantity of potatoes which is now raised. The high price of cattle and sheep, previous to that period, retarded the progress of cultivation, and turned the attention of the farmers chiefly to pasturage. Only a small proportion of the land actually devoted to tillage received any manure, and little attention was paid to the reclaiming of waste land, or improving the general soil. Since that time, however, a different system of husbandry has been introduced and extensively prosecuted, which has greatly increased the amount of raw produce, and changed the whole aspect of the southern parts of the parish. The continued low price of cattle for several years past has led, in all the more cultivated districts, to a change of stock, and an improved system of agriculture. The increase of dairies, and the scheme of management connected with them, have tended much to improve the general state of the land, inasmuch as a greater quantity of manure is thereby procured, and a greater proportion of the soil annually enriched. In particular, the system of *green-cropping*, upon a more extensive scale, recently introduced by an eminent practical farmer (Mr Gibson, factor to Sir James D. Hay,) and now generally adopted, has greatly increased both the natural value of the land, and the quantity of farm produce. This system, besides having increased the average extent of crop on all farms where it is pursued, has naturally turned the attention of the farmers to all practicable means of improving their lands ; and by draining, levelling, removing stones, and applying proper manure, they have effected of late an extensive improvement. Some parts of the land which were formerly waste and useless, have, under this system of management, been rendered the most productive and valuable ; and the general aspect of the parish presents in consequence a very meliorated appearance. It is presumed that the mode of husbandry

prosecuted in the parts of this parish best suited for tillage, is not inferior to that of any other parish in Scotland.

On these parts which are less suitable for tillage, and solely reserved for pasturage, about 100 scores of sheep, and a corresponding number of black Galloway cattle, are kept as stock.

The general duration of leases is nineteen years.

*Farm-Buildings, &c.*—The dwelling-houses and office-houses of the tenantry are in general good, commodious, and advantageously situated, and form a pleasing contrast with what they were but a few years ago. Enclosures also are generally sufficient, and in good state of repair.

*Manufactures.*—No extensive manufactures have yet been established in this parish. There are, however, two corn-mills, two carding-mills; one dye-mill, and one flax-mill; but in none of these establishments are many hands employed, nor is any great amount of work executed.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Markets.*—A cattle-market is held near Glenluce, on the first Friday of every month from April to December.

*Villages.*—The only village in this parish is Glenluce, which lies on the side of a little glen or valley, about one mile and a half from the most inland point of the Bay of Luce, and on the public road leading from Newton-Stewart to Stranraer. A regular post-office has long been established in this village, and the mail-coach, running between Dumfries and Portpatrick, passes through it daily.

*Means of Communication, &c.*—There is but one turnpike road in the parish, which measures about ten miles. The only bridge of importance is that over the river of Luce, about one quarter of a mile west from the village, which at present is in course of being enlarged by an adjunct of 22 feet in breadth.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church is situated on the north-west side of the village, and in its immediate neighbourhood. Its distance from the remotest extremity of the parish is about seven miles; but it could not be more conveniently situated for the great body of the population. It was built in 1814, and is in good state of repair. It affords accommodation for 800 persons.

The manse stands beside the old Abbey. It was built about sixty-five years ago, and was thoroughly repaired in 1830. The glebe contains 16 acres, and averages in value L. 2, 10s. per acre. The stipend of the present incumbent is the *minimum*.

There is one Dissenting chapel in this parish connected with the United Secession Church. The stipend of the minister is L. 80, raised chiefly from seat-rents and sabbatical contributions. The number of actual members is about 80 ; the average attendance about 150.

Public worship in the Established Church is remarkably well attended. The average number of communicants amounts to upwards of 600. The number of families attending the Established Church is 321 ; of Roman Catholic families, 19 ; of Dissenting or Seceding families, 25, whereof 9 are Cameronians, who attend Divine service, some in Stranraer, and others in Newtonstewart.

*Education.*—There are five schools at present in this parish, four of which are supported chiefly by the fees. The parish school-master receives the minimum salary, with the legal accommodations. His fees may amount to L. 40 a year : and he has about L. 4 a year from other sources. The branches of education taught in the parish school, and the rates of these branches per quarter, are as follows : English reading and grammar, 3s. ; Latin, 4s. ; arithmetic, 4s. ; practical mathematics, 4s. ; geography and history, 4s. ; writing and book-keeping, 4s. The more common branches of education only are taught in the other four schools ; and the average attendance at each may be about 30.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—About 30 persons annually receive parochial aid ; but the sum allotted per week varies according to the peculiar circumstances of the different persons receiving relief. The amount of contributions for the poor is about L. 80 annually. No assessment for the relief of such persons has at any time taken place in this parish. The late Earl of Stair mortified L. 270 in behalf of the poor in this parish. A strong aversion from seeking parochial aid exists among the *native* inhabitants of the parish.

*Fairs.*—One fair is held in the month of May, in the village of Glenluce, for the purpose of engaging servants to work during the seasons of hay-making and harvest ; but for several years it has been attended by few, and all business of importance is transacted on Fridays at the neighbouring market-town of Stranraer.

*Inns and Ale-houses.*—There are 3 inns and 6 or 7 ale-houses in this parish ; but nothing remarkable is observed as to their effects on the moral character of the people.

*Fuel.*—The fuel generally used in this parish is peat, obtained from extensive tracts of moss.

January 1839.

## PARISH OF NEW LUCE.

PRESBYTERY OF STRANRAER, SYNOD OF GALLOWAY.

THE REV. WILLIAM M'KERGO, MINISTER.

---

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Extent, &c.*—THE parish of New Luce is situated in a moorland district of Wigtonshire, extending about 10 miles in length, from north to south; and 6 miles in breadth, from east to west. It is bounded on the south by the parish of Old Glenluce, from which it was taken, and erected into a separate parish in the year 1628. It is bounded on the east by the parish of Kirkowan, from which it is separated by the Water of Tarf; on the north, by the parishes of Colmonell and Ballantrae; and on the west, by the parish of Inch, from which it is divided by the main water of Luce, which rises among the hills in Ballantrae, and runs south until it falls into the sea in Glenluce Bay. The Cross-water of Luce rises among the said hills, runs in a south-east direction until it reaches the middle of the parish, where it turns to the west, and runs into the main water at right angles, where the parish church and village are situated, at the distance of five miles from the village of Glenluce, and nine miles from the town of Stranraer.

The salmon-fishing in the main water belongs to Sir James Dalrymple Hay, of Park Place, Bart.; that in the Cross-water has hitherto been reckoned free.

*Geology.*—The rocks of this parish belong to the stratified series of the transition class.

### II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Parochial Registers.*—The oldest parish register is dated 1695. Until about twenty-five years ago they were not regularly kept.

*Land-owners.*—The heritors are four in number, none of whom reside within this parish. They are named below, as proprietors of the different farms.

There are no mansion-houses of any consequence in the parish.

*Eminent Characters.*—The only eminent character connected with this parish is the celebrated Alexander Peden, “the pro-

phet," as he is still commonly designated, who was minister of New Luce for three years previously to 1662, when he was ejected from his office, Charles II. having, in the preceding year, restored Episcopacy as the national religion. Peden, on retiring from the parish, skulked about from place to place, instructing and encouraging the people. He was at length apprehended and confined a close prisoner to the Bass. He afterwards received sentence of banishment to Virginia, but the captain of the vessel which was meant to carry him and others to their place of transportation, having refused to convey them, he was liberated. But his sufferings were not yet over. He was again obliged to conceal himself. He found a retreat sometimes in Ireland, sometimes in Scotland, till at length in 1686, death put an end to his sufferings in the sixtieth year of his age. "Peden's Prophecies," a pamphlet published after his death, and which even yet has believers in its statements, "were palmed," says Wodrow, "on this great man. By all the rules of charity, I reckon myself obliged to take these prophecies to have been most injuriously fathered on Mr Peden." His name, we may state, is still held in high veneration among the common people.

### III.—POPULATION.

Population in 1801,	968
1811, .	457
1821, .	609
1831, .	628

Number of families in 1831,	117
chiefly employed in agriculture,	59
trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	16

Number of illegitimate births in the parish during the last three years, 8.

### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—This parish contains thirty-two farms; three of these belong to Sir James D. Hay; two to Thomas M'icking, Esq. of Miltonise; one to Captain Macdowall of Logan; and all the rest to the Earl of Stair. The above farms have been considerably improved, within these last thirty years, by new houses, march-dikes, and fences dividing the meadow and arable land from the moor pasture; and likewise by new roads from this village to Glenluce and Stranraer, and towards the toll-bar at the head of Glenap, in Ballantrae, and towards Barhill, in Colmonell.

There are not above ten acres of land planted in this parish, although trees thrive well; and there are some hundreds of acres upon the banks of rivers well adapted for planting, and fit for little else, which would beautify the country, afford shelter, and turn to good account in point of gain.

The writer regrets he cannot ascertain exactly the proportions of arable and waste land in the parish.

There is about as much grain raised in this parish as is sufficient for its inhabitants; and the principal produce of the soil is sheep and black-cattle.

*Rent.*—The present rental of the parish is L. 3200 Sterling per annum.

There are three shops and three public-houses, all situated in the village of New Luce, which contains about 180 inhabitants, some of whom are labourers, and some tradesmen, employed by the country people in the neighbourhood.

There are no manufactories in this quarter.

The road money is upwards of L. 30 yearly. Several roads have been made since the last Account, and a considerable quantity of land has been fenced by stone dikes and manured with lime.

*Farm-Houses, Leases, &c.*—Suitable houses have been built upon most of the farms during these last twenty-five years. Leases are generally granted for the space of nineteen years; and although the present low price of wool and of all other farm produce is severely felt, yet the farmers are, upon the whole, comfortably situated.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

The nearest post-office is Glenluce, which is five miles distant, and the nearest market-town is Stranraer, above nine miles distant.

*Means of Communication.*—There is a new line of road from Glenluce to the toll-bar of Curloch in Ballantrae parish, which passes through the village of New Luce; and also a line of road from the said village, which passes through the farm of Miltonise to the village of Barhill, in Colmonell parish. There is a bridge upon the Cross water of Luce, about four miles from this village. Both these lines of road will be of great use in opening up this dull country.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—There is plenty of church accommodation here, the church being seated for 400 people; and, by putting up galleries, it could be easily made to contain 200 more. As the inhabitants of six or eight farms in the parish of Inch are more than six miles from their own church, and near to New Luce, they generally attend sermon in the latter place. The church was built about eighteen years ago.

The stipend is L. 150 Sterling per annum, (with L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements,)—of which sum the heritors pay L. 69,



17s. 6d., and the remaining L. 88, 9s. 2d. is paid by the Exchequer. The manse was built about thirty-six years ago.

The number of communicants is about 200. The people attend sermon as well as can be expected from the bad roads, and the distance at which several of them are placed. There is no chapel or meeting-house in this parish.

There are four families of Dissenters, and three families of Roman Catholics in the parish. All the rest belong to the Established Church.

*Education.*—A sufficient school-house and schoolmaster's house were erected in this parish lately; but more than one-half of the farmers' children receive no benefit from the parochial school (the only school in the parish) on account of their distance, and they are generally taught by young lads, who are hired to live in their families through the winter season. There is a Sabbath school taught in this village by the parochial schoolmaster, except during four months in the depth of winter. The education of the young is generally attended to; and there are no grown-up persons in this parish who cannot read.

The salary of the parochial schoolmaster is L. 25, 13s. 4d. a year. His fees may amount to L. 5 per annum. He has also the interest of a mortified sum of L. 50 for the education of poor children, and L. 2 for acting as precentor, session-clerk, &c.

*Poor.*—There are no assessments in this parish. The poor are supported by collections in the church, which amount to about L. 15 a-year; and the interest of L. 300 left as a donation by the late Earl of Stair, principal heritor of the parish. The average number of persons receiving parochial aid is 16.

*Fuel.*—The fuel used is moss or turf, and easily procured.

*Inns.*—There are three inns in the village.

*January 1839.*

## PARISH OF INCH.

PRESBYTERY OF STRANRAER, SYNOD OF GALLOWAY.

THE REV. JAMES FERGUSSON, A. M. MINISTER.

---

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THE name of the parish is evidently Celtic. *Inis*, *Ynis* or *Inch* signifies island. In the Loch of Castle-Kennedy, opposite the present church, is an island supposed to have been the site of a religious house prior to the Reformation. This island was called the INCH, and hence the name of the parish.

*Extent and Boundaries.*—The parish is about ten miles long, and in some places nearly the same in breadth. It is bounded on the north by the parish of Ballantrae; on the east by the parishes of New Luce and Glenluce; on the south by the parishes of Stonykirk and Portpatrick; and on the west by the parishes of Leswalt and Stranraer, and the Bay of Lochryan.

*Topographical Appearances.* The north part of the parish consists of high lands partly arable, but chiefly covered with heath, rugged and not susceptible of culture. The highest elevation is 812 feet above the level of the sea. The south part of the parish is low; and, when viewed from the hills, has the appearance of a plain; but it is gently undulating in its surface. This part of the parish lies in an isthmus between the bays of Lochryan and Luce. The soil is in general light, resting on a bed of sand or gravel. There are some curious hollows here, called by the country people *pots*, perhaps formed by the retiring sea, which is supposed to have overflowed at one period the whole isthmus. One of these, situated on the farm of Aird, near the church, is of an oval form, and is about 1000 feet in circumference, and about 100 in depth.

*Coast.*—There is an extent of shore of about eight miles along Lochryan. The shore is flat, sandy or gravelly, except where it joins the parish of Ballantrae; it there acquires a rocky and precipitous character.

*Bays.*—Lochryan is situated at what may be considered the entrance of the Frith of Clyde, being about 60 miles south-west of Greenock, 40 miles south south-east of Campbelton, 52 south-east of the north channel opening into the western ocean, and 40 miles north-east of the entrance of Belfast Loch. At its entrance it is about three miles across from east to west, with from four to five fathoms water, which gradually deepens to seven or eight as you proceed up. The loch lies north and south, and is between eight and nine miles long from the entrance to the town of Stranraer, situated at the head of it. Its breadth varies from two to five miles.

*Meteorology.*—The accompanying table will give the monthly temperature during the year 1837, also the pressure of the atmosphere, as ascertained by the barometer, and the quantity of rain fallen, as ascertained by the rain-gauge, &c. The observations have been made and kept with great regularity and accuracy by Mr Burnet, gardener to the Earl of Stair at Castle-Kennedy.

An Abstract of the Heat, Rain, and Barometer for the year 1837.

	Ther.	Bar.		Rain.	Dry Days.	Rain.	Snow.	Frost.
		Highest.	Lowest.					
Jan.	37.°690	30.375	28.625	3.500	24	6	—	114
Feb.	41. 990	30.350	28.240	4.600	13	14	1	5
Mar.	36. 840	30.300	29.	740	26	2	3	20
Apr.	40. 860	30.350	28.700	3.250	20	8	2	17
May,	50. 510	29.850	29.150	1.400	18	12	1	—
June,	59. 180	30.110	29	1.800	24	6	—	2
July,	60. 400	30.125	28.610	3.500	16	15	—	—
Aug.	57. 480	30.175	29.	2.320	18	13	—	1
Sept.	53. 070	30.175	28.875	1.500	20	8	1	1
Oct.	50. 250	30.500	28.400	3.560	15	16	—	5
Nov.	43. 750	30.025	28.400	4.750	6	24	—	4
Dec.	44 440	30.275	28.150	5.840	13	18	—	3
Medium	48. 410			36.760	214	143	9	72

In July and August two heavy showers of hail. Seventy-two nights on which frost fell.

*Prevailing Winds.*—The prevailing winds are south and west. In November and December 1833, we had gales of great and unusual violence. The plantations suffered severely. The storm was preceded by a great depression of the barometer. A dreadful storm took place on the morning of the 7th January 1839, unroofing houses, and levelling with the ground the largest trees.

*Prognostics.*—I have often observed the correctness of the prognostics of the weather described by Virgil. There is to be storm,

“ Cum medio celeres revolant ex æquore mærgi  
 Clamoremque ferunt ad litora; cumque marinæ  
 In sicco ludunt fulicæ; notasque paludes  
 Deserit, atque altam supra volat ardea nubem.”

When there is to be rain,

“ e pastu decedens agrimine magno  
Corvorum increpuit densis exercitus alis,”

and various sea birds may be seen,

“ Certatim largos humeris infundere roves.”

*Climate.*—The climate of the parish is variable. The inhabitants, however, enjoy much health, and live to a good old age. Rheumatic distempers prevail, occasioned, probably, by the changefulness of the climate.

The accompanying table will show the commencement of seed-time and harvest in the highland district of the parish, for a series of years. It is extracted from the journal of an intelligent farmer.

Commencement of Seed-time and Harvest in the Parish of Inch.

Year.	Commencement of Seed-time.	Commencement of Harvest.
1813,	March 25,	August 31
1814,	—	September 9
1815,	April 1,	— 1
1816,	March 27,	October 7, finished Nov. 9
1817,	—	September 29
1818,	— 31,	August 24
1819,	— 15,	— 27
1820,	— 13,	September 2
1821,	— 21,	August 28
1822,	— 15,	— 19
1823,	— 23,	September 19
1824,	— 22,	August 31
1825,	—	September 4
1826,	— 20,	July 31
1827,	— 26,	August 22
1828,	— 25,	— 19
1829,	— 11,	— 26
1830,	— 26,	— 22
1831,	— 22,	— 16
1832,	— 13,	— 25
1833,	— 19,	— 26
1834,	— 17,	— 19

*Hydrography*—There are several chalybeate springs in the parish, some also slightly sulphuretted. I am not aware that any of these have been analyzed.

There are no less than twelve fresh water lochs in the parish. The lochs of Castle-Kennedy and Soulseat are remarkable for their beauty, and are well worthy of a visit from the lover of lake scenery. The loch of Soulseat was called in former times the *Green Lake*, and an outlet is still called the *Green Ford*. At certain seasons the loch is overspread with a green seed-like substance, but whether of a vegetable or animal nature, I have not ascertained.

There are no rivers of any magnitude in the parish. The Luce, a stream which rises in Carrick, and flowing with much rapidity over a rocky bed, discharges itself into the Bay of Luce, is the boundary line between this parish and New Luce. The Piltanton,

a smaller and more sluggish stream, which discharges itself into the same bay, divides this parish from Stonykirk.

*Geology.*—There is not much interesting in the geology of the parish. The hills are chiefly composed of stratified transition rocks, as greywacke, &c. There is an excellent slate-quarry on the lands of Lochryan. Granite is never found except in detached blocks. Tradition speaks of lead mines having been wrought. Probably an attempt was made to find lead ore, but without any success. Attempts have been repeatedly made to discover coal, but they have all hitherto failed. There are extensive tracts of peat moss, which supply abundant fuel. There is great diversity of soil, gravelly, sandy, clayey, loamy, and mossy. Throughout the lower part of the parish, the soil is in general light and sandy.

*Zoology.*—The parish abounds in different sorts of game; partridge, grouse, snipe, woodcock, hares, &c. I have heard it alleged that the ptarmigan once existed in the district. The bittern is sometimes, but not very often, found. Curlews and plovers abound. Troops of wild geese may be seen pasturing by the brooks on the high lands, or, when severe weather is setting in, winging their way to the sea shore. A great variety of water-fowl frequent the lakes—ducks, coots, widgeon, teal, cormorant, &c. In winter, we are frequently visited by swans. Sea-mews visit us in spring, to bring forth their young by the sedgy shores of our lochs. There are two rookeries in the parish,—one at Castle-Kennedy, the seat of the Earl of Stair, and one at Lochryan House, the seat of Sir Alexander Wallace. There is also a heronry at Castle-Kennedy. Birds of prey, such as hawks, kites, owls, ravens, &c. are not so numerous as they once were. Of beasts of prey, we have the polecat and weasel. Foxes, wild-cats, badgers, and otters once abounded, but have now disappeared. Serpents, lizards, &c. are not uncommon.

The lochs abound in pike, perch, trout, roach, and eel. Pike have been caught twenty-four pounds in weight. There are salmon in the River Luce, and in the estuaries of Lochryan. There are cod, haddock, whiting, herring, flounder, &c. in Lochryan. Excellent oysters, too, abound in Lochryan. The fishery belongs to Sir Alexander Wallace of Lochryan, by a charter from the Crown.

On a calm summer evening, the banks of the Loch of Souleseat present an appearance not a little curious. What seem to be pillars of cloud, appear here and there, rising to a height of fifty feet or more. A stranger viewing them at a distance might sup-

pose them to consist of vapour or smoke ; but on a nearer approach, they are found to consist of living creatures, engaged in ceaseless action, performing the most graceful evolutions ; and, on listening, will be heard the rush of their little wings and the piping of their tiny voices. These flies have, I believe, their nativity in the water, from which they emerge to an ephemeral existence in the region of air. One species of them go through a very singular process—throwing off the skin. They fix themselves to a tree or bush, or any resting-place, and literally crawl out of their skin, and, having left behind them their *exuviae*, hie themselves off with freshened agility to their aerial dance. On remaining for a short time by the water edge, I have found myself covered with the filmy skins of these gay ephemerae.

*Botany.*—The parish is not remarkable for the production of any rare plants.

The plantations consist of beech, ash, elm, oak, plane, birch, alder, Scotch, larch, and spruce firs. The beech, ash, and plane thrive best. There are some large and beautiful ash trees at Castle-Kennedy. The larch only thrives in sheltered situations.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Ancient Accounts of the Parish.*—In 1684, Mr Andrew Symson, minister of Kirkinner, drew up what he calls “a large Description of Galloway.” In that work there is an account of each parish in Wigtonshire. In it will be found some notices regarding the geographical position, antiquities, and remarkable objects of the parish of Inch. Mr Symson’s “Description” remained in MS. in the Advocates’ Library, till 1823, when it was printed for the first time.

The parish of Inch comprehended at one time the modern parish of Portpatrick, and part of the parish of Stranraer. In 1628, Portpatrick, which had been popularly called the *black quarter* of Inch, was erected into a distinct parish. About the same time, or soon after, a part of Inch was detached to form, with a part of Leswalt, the new parish of Stranraer. To compensate for these disjunctions, the whole of the old parish of Soulseat was annexed to Inch. The manse and glebe remain at Soulseat ; the parish church is at Inch.

*Eminent Men.*—The celebrated Marshal Stair was connected with this parish by property and residence. His military talents and achievements, and the part he took in the political proceedings of his day, are matters of history. When out of place this distinguished nobleman resided much in the country, and delighted

in agricultural pursuits. To him the parish was indebted for the introduction of some improvements in husbandry. He was fond of draining bogs and lochs. Several of his works in this way are still to be seen.

General Sir Alexander J. Wallace, a distinguished military officer, resides in the parish. He has seen much service in India, Egypt, the Peninsula, &c. He obtained the commendation of his Sovereign for his gallant conduct in the actions of Busaco, Fuentes d'Onor, and Salamanca. Having executed a gallant charge with his regiment, the 88th, or Connaught Rangers, in the Battle of Busaco, Lord Wellington, who had been a near spectator, bestowed the warmest encomiums. Riding up, he took Lieut.-Col. Wallace by the hand, and said, "Wallace, I never saw a more gallant charge than that just now made by your regiment." When any difficult or dangerous service was to be executed, the post of honour was frequently assigned to Lieut.-Col. Wallace and the brave 88th.

Sir John Ross, the intrepid Arctic Navigator, is a native of the parish. He is the youngest son of the Rev. Andrew Ross, formerly minister of Inch. He was born at Soulseat 24th June 1777. He has a residence in the parish, North-West Castle. General Andrew Ross is another distinguished member of the same family. His promising career was closed by an early death.

*Land-owners.*—The land-owners of the parish are, the Earl of Stair; General Sir Alexander J. Wallace, Bart. of Lochryan; Colonel Vans Agnew of Sheuchan; Patrick Maitland, Esq.; Sir James Dalrymple Hay, Bart.; Colonel Blair; W. Craig, Esq.; Sir Adolphus Dalrymple, at present M. P. for Brighton. The only resident proprietor is General Sir Alexander J. Wallace.

*Antiquities.*—At Glenterra, in this parish, at a little distance from the road leading to New Luce, there are four large unpolished stones placed erect, and forming a circle. At the distance of some yards from the circle stands a single stone. They are called by the country people "the Standing Stones of Glentarra." This may be a small specimen of the Druidical Temple.

What are called "the Stepping-Stones of Glenterra" are not a little curious. About three feet deep, in a peat moss, there is a regular file of stepping-stones, extending about a quarter of a mile. These must have been placed to form a passage through a swamp previous to the growth of the peat moss.

Stone axes have been found in the parish. These were proba-

bly the rude military implements of the ancient *Novantes*—the primitive inhabitants of Galloway.

Sepulchral stone cairns abound in the parish. They are commonly called “the Auld Grey Cairns.” Some of them are in a situation where the stones must have been brought from a considerable distance, there being no stones in the neighbourhood. They consist of a circular heap of stones, from 50 to 70 feet in diameter, and from 6 to 8 feet high in the centre. In the interior there is a cavity formed with large flat stones, 4, 5, or 6 feet in length, and 2 or 3 feet in breadth. In this cavity, is generally found an urn, with fragments of bone, burned wood, and ashes; but sometimes the fragments of bone, burned wood, and ashes, occur without an urn. At Cairnyaran, a moorland farm in this parish, there are nine of these cairns within the extent of a Scots mile.

These cairns occur in the high part of the parish. In the lower district, burrows or tumuli of earth occur, having the same sort of cavity, and generally containing an urn with fragments of bone, burned wood, and ashes. Whether the age, or the locality, or whether the rank of the individual interred, made the difference between the stone cairn and the earthen tumulus, I cannot say. Both are no doubt the monuments of the ancient *Novantes*.

At Innermessan, a farm in this parish, is a large circular mound called the *Moat*. Its circumference at the base is 336 feet, and from the foundation to the top is 78 feet. It appears to have been surrounded by a fosse. Such erections may have served various purposes. The name *Moat*, a Saxon word, would seem to indicate that it was a place of judicial assembly. The *Fosse* would lead us to believe that it had been used as a fortlet or place of defence. But whatever other purposes it may have served, I have no doubt that it was used as a place for burning the dead, or depositing the ashes of the dead. On the 24th November 1834, I caused a hole, three feet deep, to be dug in the centre of the plain on the top. After passing through a fine rich mould, we came to a stratum consisting of ashes, charred wood, and fragments of bone. In the days of the ancient *Novantes*, this was probably the public cemetery of the adjacent town *Rerigionium*. May not this mound have been used also for such religious observances as “the kindling of lights on hills,” the *Beltan* or *Baltien*, which, according to Jamieson’s Scottish Dictionary, signifies *Bel’s Fire*.

This Innermessan was the site of the ancient *Rerigionium*, a



town of the Novantes. It was situated on the *Rerigonius sinus*, the modern Lochryan. In subsequent times there was the town and Castle of Innermessan. The castle belonged to Sir Andrew Agnew of Lochnaw. The town of Innermessan seems to have been the most considerable place in the Rhins of Galloway, as Symson, in his "Description of Galloway," says, "the greatest town thereabouts till Stranraer was built." Every vestige of the town and castle is now obliterated, unless it be a sewer, about three feet under ground, which may still be seen. Innermessan is properly *Inver Messan*, signifying the influx of the Messan.

Close by the present manse may be traced some of the foundations of the Abbey of Soulseat or Saulseat. It was founded by Fergus, Lord of Galloway, in the twelfth century, for Premonstratensian monks. It was called in Latin, *sedes Animarum* and *Monasterium viridis stagni*. This latter name it acquired from being situated on a peninsula formed by a fresh water loch, the waters of which at certain seasons have a green hue. Chalmers, in his Caledonia, says, "it was the mother of the more celebrated and opulent Priory of Whithorn, as well as the Abbey of Holywood, both of which were planted by monks of the same order. It appears to have been the original establishment of the Premonstratensian monks in Scotland; and the abbots of Soulseat were the superiors of that order in this kingdom." Not much is known of the history of this abbey. It is mentioned in an act of Parliament 1487, against purchasing livings at Rome, as one of the Scottish abbeys, "that were not of old at the Court of Rome," *i. e.* the Pope had no right to dispose of it, the King having the appointment. In 1532, David, Abbot of Soulseat, obtained a precept from the King, commanding obedience to him, in visiting and reforming all the houses in Scotland of the Premonstratensian order. In 1568, the Abbot of Soulseat, along with others, subscribed a bond, obliging themselves to defend the Queen. These are all the notices I have been able to collect regarding the history of this abbey. It was in ruins in 1684, when Symson wrote his Description of Galloway. Only a few of the remains are now visible. An extensive burying-ground seems to have surrounded the abbey. Human bones and pieces of coffins have been often dug up. Part of the burying-ground still remains, and is occasionally used as a place of interment. There are, however, no very ancient inscriptions. The oldest inscription is the following:—"Here lies ane honest man, Gilbert Mure, Marchand, burgess

of Wigton, quha departed this lyf, 16 September 1616, spouse to Agnes Cunningham."

A deep fosse or trench, drawn from the two wings of the loch, seems to have shut in the peninsula of Soulseat. Symson makes mention of this trench, and traces of it may still be seen. Symson also speaks of a wonderful stone here. "At this mause," he says, "is a stone, pretty large, which I have seen, to the particles whereof broken off the country people attribute great virtue for curing the gravel; and tell a long story concerning the progress of that stone, and how it came there, concerning which, if you think fit, you may inquire at Mr James Hutchinson, minister of North Leith, who was a considerable space minister of this parish."

In that part of the parish of Inch which was detached to form the parish of Stranraer, stood St John's Chapel. A piece of land which belonged to the chapel was called St John's Croft. Adjoining was the Castle of the Chapel, which Symson calls "a good house, pertaining to Sir John Dalrymple, younger of Stair." This castle now forms the jail of Stranraer.

Castle-Kennedy is the most notable place in this parish. The castle has been a large and stately edifice. It was probably built in the reign of James VI. It was the seat of the Earls of Cassilis, who once possessed large estates in Wigtonshire. The great power of this family in this part of the country occasioned the following rhyme:

"'Twixt Wigton and the town of Ayr,  
Portpatrick, and the Cruives of Cree,  
No man needs think for to bide there,  
Unless he court with Kennedie."

In the reign of Charles II, Castle-Kennedy, with the adjacent lands, passed to Sir John Dalrymple, younger of Stair, and to that family it has since belonged. The castle was accidentally burned in 1715, and has never since been habitable. The walls, which are still standing, are 70 feet high. The castle is beautifully situated between two fresh water lochs. The grounds and plantations were laid off by Marshal Stair, and are said to be a kind of military picture, in which that distinguished soldier "fought his battles o'er again."

On the island near the church, the Earl of Cassilis had a small house, where he was wont, as Symson says, "to retire himself betwixt sermons, having a boat for that purpose."

The remains of a castle may still be seen at Larg, a farm in this

parish, near the River Luce. It was the property and residence of the Lyns of Larg.

The Castle of Craig-caffie is still entire. It is not a large building, and has been converted into a farm-house. It has been surrounded by a fosse, but could never have been a place of much strength. It was the residence and property of the Nelsons of Craig-caffie, a family now extinct.

III.—POPULATION.

The population by the return to Dr Webster was	1513
In the Old Statistical Account,	1450
By census 1821,	2386
By census 1831,—males, 1164—females, 1357,	2521

The population is still on the increase. By a census taken by myself, it now amounts to 2684. The increase chiefly arises from the town of Stanraer extending its suburbs within the bounds of this parish. About 600 reside in villages, the rest in the country.

The yearly average of births, as far as inserted in the parish register, is 52

The average of marriages for the same time, 19

No register of deaths has been kept in the parish.

By the census taken by myself, there are of the	
Population under 15 years of age,	1076
betwixt 15 and 30,	616
30 and 50,	582
50 and 70,	312
upwards of 70,	98

Total, 2684

The number of unmarried men upwards of 50 years of age, is	35
women upwards of 45,	117
of families is	466
chiefly employed in agriculture,	362
in trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	83
Number of fatuous persons, 5; of blind, 3,	8

Number of illegitimate births during the last three years, 22.

*Amusements.*—In the winter season, curling and skating are very common amusements. During hard frost, some of our lochs present a very gay and animating appearance. The skater performs his evolutions,—the stone thunders along the ice amid the cheers of the spectators,—the graceful forms of the fair move up and down on the slippery promenade, giving additional interest to the scene. Curling levels all distinctions,—the laird and the labourer, the master and the servant, the clergyman and the clown, are all on an equality at this game. The late mild winters have rendered less frequent the enjoyment of these amusements.

*Character of the People.*—The tenantry of Inch enjoy, in a considerable degree, the comforts and advantages of society. They are, in general, well-informed, moral and religious. Some of them are well versed in historic lore. I recollect of one man,

long an elder in this parish, who for a minute acquaintance with all matters of history, surpassed any man I ever knew. A large portion of the working-classes are Irish. They are by no means cleanly in their habits and style of living. Their habitations are too frequently scenes of filth. The pig often shares the same domicile with his owner. The Scotch part of the labouring population are much more cleanly in their habits,—superior also in character and intelligence. The ordinary food of the peasantry consists chiefly of oatmeal porridge, and bread, milk, cheese, potatoes, pork, and herring. Tea and tobacco are in too general use. It would be better that what is expended on these luxuries would go to improve the comforts of the people in other respects. I have often wished that the labourer could enjoy the wholesome and invigorating beverage of home-brewed ale. Poaching prevails much in the parish, but the poachers generally come from other parishes.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—The land cultivated, or occasionally in tillage, may amount to 12,600 acres; the land never cultivated, constantly waste or in pasture, 18,000 acres. About 800 acres of the highland district of the parish might be added to the cultivated land; the climate, however, would have to be ameliorated by belts of plantation. There is no land in the parish in a state of undivided common. About 655 acres are under wood, all planted and enclosed. There is some natural wood in the glens in the higher district, but not of much extent or value. The oldest plantations were made about a century ago by Marshal Stair, and consist chiefly of beech. At that time, and till lately, beech was considered the only tree that would suit the soil and climate of Wigtonshire. This is now found to be a mistake. Beech also is very unprofitable timber. Ash, oak, elm, plane, and larch are now generally planted.

*Rent of Land.*—The average rent of arable land in the parish is L. 1 per acre. The average rent of grazing is about L. 3, 15s. for each cow, and 3s. 6d. for each sheep per annum.

*Wages.*—The wages of a common labourer in summer, 1s. 2d.; in winter, 1s. The wages of a joiner in summer and winter, 2s.; of a mason, do. 2s. 6d.

*Sheep.*—The common breed of sheep in the parish is the *black-faced*. The sheep-walks not being very good, the stock are generally small, and the breed not much studied. The diseases

which prevail among sheep in this district are the *brazy*, a kind of flatulent distemper, which speedily proves fatal; the *sturdy*, or water in the head, and *grupping*, a kind of palsy. The latter is sometimes cured by putting the sheep into a clover or turnip-field. Sheep are *clipped* in the month of June, and *smear*ed in November.

*Live-Stock.*—The breed of cattle long common in this district is the well known *Galloway breed*. They feed well, and are preferred in the English market to any other cattle of the same weight. Much attention has been paid by our farmers to the improvement of this kind of stock. Of late years, however, the purity of the breed has been much contaminated by the introduction of Irish cattle. In consequence of the low price of *Galloways* in the English market, many of our farmers have introduced the Ayrshire cow, and turned their attention to cheese-making.

Turnips were introduced into the parish more than a century ago by Marshal Stair, but their cultivation did not become general till lately. Turnip cultivation, and feeding off with sheep, are extremely suitable to our light soils, and are now generally adopted. There is a bone-mill in the parish, and bone manure is in great demand.

*Reclaiming Waste Land, &c.*—There are several considerable bogs or mosses in the lower district of the parish, which might be reclaimed and improved; but as the price of coal is high, (being all imported) these are required for a supply of fuel. George Guthrie, Esq. factor to the Earl of Stair, the most spirited agriculturist in the district, has reclaimed many acres of bog land; and splendid crops of corn are now raised on what was before “a possession for the bittern and pools of water.” The example of Mr Guthrie has given a stimulus to agricultural improvement in the parish.

*Leases.*—The general duration of leases is nineteen years.

*Farm-Buildings, &c.*—The farm-houses about fifty years ago were very miserable, but they are now very comfortable dwellings. The general fence in the lowland part of the parish is the turf-dike sown with whins. The thorn hedge is not very common, and does not thrive well in all situations. In the highland district the common fence is the Galloway dike, built of dry stones. It is built 5 feet 2 inches high for sheep, and 4 feet 2 inches for cattle. The first can be built for 1s. 4d. per rood, and the latter for 1s.

The principal obstacle to improvement arises from the want of capital among the tenantry.

*Raw Produce.*—The average gross amount of raw produce raised in the parish may probably be as under :

Produce of grain of all kinds,	-	L. 15,200
of green crop, potatoes, turnip, &c.	-	6,500
of hay,	-	1,500
of crops cultivated for the arts, as flax,	-	40
of land in pasture,	-	7,000
		<hr/>
Total,	-	L. 30,240

*Manufactures.*—Manufactures have never been introduced into the parish to any extent.

*Navigation.*—Lochryan affords great facilities for shipping. There is excellent shelter and excellent anchorage opposite the village of Cairnryan. Here, with proper ground tackle, a vessel may ride out the heaviest gale. Lochryan has long been a place of refuge for the shipping of the Clyde, and vessels navigating the Irish Channel. It has often been suggested as the best station for the mail-packets between Scotland and Ireland. A Government survey was lately made with reference to this object, and it is understood to have been the opinion of the distinguished naval officer employed in that service, that Lochryan is the fittest station.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Town.*—The nearest market-town is Stranraer. It is three miles distant from the parish church.

*Villages.*—The principal village is Cairnryan. Its population is about 300. It is seven miles distant from the parish church. Another village contains about 200. A suburb of Stranraer has been lately built within the parish of Inch, containing nearly 100.

*Means of Communication.*—The great road from London to Portpatrick passes through the parish; also the road from Glasgow to Portpatrick. Three mail-coaches travel daily through the parish. The Stranraer and Glasgow steamer, and the Stranraer and Belfast steamer call regularly at Cairnryan, and receive and land passengers and goods. The parish thus enjoys facility of communication with all parts of the world.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church is the only place of worship within the parish. It is eight or ten miles distant from some of the extremities of the parish. Many of the parishioners are situated at an inconvenient distance. It is proposed, however, to remedy this evil by the erection of a church at Cairnryan. The parish church was built in 1770. It is not in good repair, and is

too small. It only contains 400. Its situation is very beautiful. The woods and lakes of Castle-Kennedy are close adjoining. On a fine summer evening the scene is exquisitely sweet.

The manse was pulled down and rebuilt during the summer of 1838.

The glebe is about 18 acres in extent, and may be valued at about 15s. or 20s. per acre. I am adding four acres more by draining a loch.

The stipend is L. 258, 12s. 3d.

The number of persons professedly belonging to the Established Church is 1965. The number of persons belonging to other religious denominations is 689. The number not known to belong to any religious denomination is 30.

Divine service at the Established Church is well attended in proportion to the size of the church, but not in proportion to the population. The number of communicants is 400.

There is an association in the parish for the purpose of promoting the General Assembly's four schemes. From L. 12 to L. 20 may be raised annually.

*Education.*—There are generally four schools in the parish, sometimes a fifth during the winter months. One of these is parochial, the rest are on the teachers' own adventure. The branches taught in the parochial school are, Latin, Greek, English, writing, arithmetic, practical mathematics, geography. In the private schools, the branches taught are chiefly English, writing, and arithmetic. The parochial teacher has the minimum salary, house and garden. The school fees are 2s. 6d. or 3s. for reading; 5s. for the higher branches. The fees may amount to L. 20 per annum. The teacher receives about L. 6 as session-clerk. The number of persons between six and fifteen years of age who cannot read or write may be 16. The number upwards of fifteen years of age who cannot read or write 20. The people are in general alive to the benefits of education. There is one part of the parish three or four miles distant from any school, but the population there is very scanty.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid is 50. The average sum allotted to each per annum is L. 1, 12s. About L. 90 is annually disbursed by the session for the support of the poor, for coffins and funeral expenses for the poor, and for paying precentor, session-clerk, presbytery-clerk, synod-clerk, beadle, &c. The amount of contribu-

tions may be stated as follows: Church collections, L. 43; proclamations, L. 3, 2s. 6d.; mortcloth, L. 4, 16s.; fines, L. 5, 4s.; donations, L. 12, 15s.; interest of funds left for the poor, L. 20, 16s. 8d.; total, L. 89, 14s. 2d. There is a disposition among the Scottish poor to refrain from seeking parochial aid. There is no disposition of this kind among the Irish settlers.

*Fairs.*—There is a monthly cattle-market from April to October, held within the bounds of the parish. Though held in the parish of Inch, it is called the Stranraer cattle-market.

*Inns, &c.*—There are nine inns or public-houses within the parish. Three would be sufficient. The part of the parish where public-houses are most numerous is the lowest in point of morals.

*Fuel.*—The fuel in general use in the parish is peat. Peats can be cut and prepared for from 5d. to 7d. per cart-load. Whatever coal is used in the parish is imported from Ayrshire.

January 1839.

## PARISH OF STRANRAER.

PREBYTERY OF STRANRAER, SYNOD OF GALLOWAY.

THE REV. DAVID WILSON, MINISTER.

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name, Boundaries, &c.*—ACCORDING to Chalmers, in his account of this parish, the name is of difficult derivation. Of old the name appeared under different forms, Stranrever, Stranraver, and Stronraver. He says, “this name is obviously Celtic.” *Stron* appears as the prefix of many appellations in the Scoto-Irish language of North Briton, and is from the Gaelic *Sron* or *Stron*, which signifies a nose or promontory, and is usually applied to projections from rising grounds. There is here such a projection, or nose, to which the *Stron* was probably applied. The annex *raer* may be the Gaelic *Reamhar*, which is pronounced *Reavar*, signifying thick, clumsy. So *Stronreaver* would signify the “thick nose or clumsy projection.” The general opinion, however, and perhaps the best founded, is, that it derives its name from the strand or rivulet which divides the row, *raw*, of houses on its banks. Strandraw became in time to be named and spelt Stranraver, and afterwards Stranraer.



The parish consists entirely of the burgh, the buildings of which cover a space of ground extending to about forty acres. In the year 1617, it was erected and created a royal burgh by authority of the Crown, and a portion of the parish of Leswalt, as also of Soulseat, now called Inch, were disposed to the burgh. The corporation consists of a provost, two bailies, a dean of guild, and fifteen councillors. Stranraer is the seat of the presbytery of the same name. The Parliamentary constituency at present is 217. The revenue of the corporation in 1833 was L. 225.

It is bounded on the east and south by the parish of Inch; on the west by the parish of Leswalt; and on the north by Lochryan, a very beautiful bay, about 10 miles in length. The villages of Clayhole and Hillhead, in the parish of Leswalt and Tradeston, in the parish of Inch, being separated from Stranraer by an ideal line, are usually considered by strangers, and even by the inhabitants, as part of the town. They contain a population of about 1000.

*Climate.*—The climate is temperate, and has always been considered healthy. The atmosphere is pure and free from fogs. The winters in general are mild, except when north or north-east winds prevail, which they seldom do for any length of time.

*Zoology.*—Various kinds of fish abound in Lochryan, such as skate, flounders, turbot, halibut, cod, haddocks, whittings, crabs, and lobsters. I sometimes hear it said, that, if the fishermen were more industrious, our fish-market would be better supplied than it is. Lochryan at one time was famous for its herring-fishery. I have heard old people say that they have known 300 sail-boats in the bay at one time, which had come from the Highlands and other places, in order to fish or purchase herrings. For many years past the shoals of herrings may be said to have deserted the loch. Oysters, of an excellent quality, and in great abundance, are to be found in the bay, particularly on a sand-bank called the Scar, which runs a considerable way across the loch from south-west to north-east.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Land-owners.*—As above-mentioned, the parish is entirely burghal, but the whole property is not directly held burgage,—part, belonging to the Earl of Stair, is let in long leases of 99 and 999 years, and part is subfeued by Vans Agnew of Sheuchan. The remainder is held burgage, and the magistrates exercise jurisdiction over the whole parish.

*Eminent Characters.*—The famous John Livingstone was mi-

nister of Stranraer for ten years previously to 1648, in which year he was translated by the General Assembly to the parish of Ancrum, in Roxburghshire. On the accession of Charles II, sentence of banishment was passed upon him: he was ordered to leave Scotland in two months, and until his departure to remain north of the Tay. He removed to Rotterdam, where he afterwards continued to reside till his death, which took place in 1672. He was one of the leading clergymen of his day; and is also well known for the valuable papers, particularly a MS. account of his own life, and "Remarkable Observations upon the Lives of the most eminent Ministers and Professors," both of which throw great light on the history of the times.—(Murray's *Lit. Hist. of Galloway*, 2d edit. pp. 96—106.) Mr Livingstone was succeeded at Stranraer by Mr John Park, previously minister of Mochrum. Mr Park was ejected from his charge at the Restoration; and though having accepted the *Indulgence*, he was anxious to return to Stranraer, the people also "as one man," says Wodrow, "adhering to him; yet a Mr Naismith, a minion of the bishop of the diocese, was put in his place. Mr Park," says Wodrow, "was a man of great solidity, very sufficient learning, and is the author of the treatise on Patronages, so well known in this church. The book was published, and, as I am well informed, considerably enlarged by his son, Mr Robert Park, Clerk to the General Assembly, after the Revolution, and town-clerk of Glasgow, who was basely murdered in the Clerk's Chamber at Glasgow, a little after the Revolution."—*Church History*, ii. p. 147.

### III.—POPULATION.

In the Old Statistical Account of this parish, it is stated, that, by the return from this parish made to Dr Webster about forty years prior to 1790, the amount was 649 souls, and at the beginning of 1791 it was 1602; according to the census of 1831 it was 3329. The increase of the population for the last forty years may be accounted for by the improvement of the agriculture of the neighbouring parishes. Stranraer being the principal sea-port, and having vessels which trade between it, Glasgow, Liverpool, and other large towns, they import the necessaries and comforts of life. The population of the neighbouring parishes having increased in consequence of the increased culture of the land, more shops have been opened to supply them with these necessaries. Besides, of late years, a great many of the natives of the sister island, having left their country in quest of food and employ-

ment, have located themselves in hovels erected in the lanes and outskirts of the town, and depend, in a great measure, for subsistence, on the charity of the inhabitants.

Number of families in the parish,	-	-	-	-	-	727
chiefly employed in agriculture,	-	-	-	-	-	7
trade, manufactures, or handicraft, &c,	-	-	-	-	-	720

The average number of births yearly for the seven years preceding 1831 is 48, as entered in the register of births and baptisms. To this must be added at least one-third more baptized by Dissenting clergymen, and not entered into the parish register. As there is no register of deaths kept in the parish, I cannot ascertain the average number of deaths for the last seven years.

Average number of marriages is	-	-	-	17
persons under 15 years of age,	-	-	-	1094
betwixt 15 and 30,	-	-	-	982
30 and 50,	-	-	-	707
50 and 70,	-	-	-	478
upwards of 70,	-	-	-	118

Number of illegitimate births during the last three years, 17.

Inhabited houses, 489.

There is no family of noble blood residing in the parish. There are a few individuals of independent fortune, but the bulk of the population depend for their subsistence upon some line of business. There is at present residing within the burgh 1 insane person; 1 fatuous; 2 blind; 1 deaf and dumb.

*Language.*—The language generally spoken is tolerably good. The lower orders (of whom a great many are natives of Ireland) have a good deal of the accent of that country. Indeed, strangers allege that all classes of the inhabitants have a good deal of the Irish accent. This, no doubt, arises from our proximity to Ireland, and our very frequent intercourse with the Irish.

There are no customs, games, or amusements, so far as I know, peculiar to this part of the country.

*Habits of the People.*—The habits of the people, I believe, are pretty much the same as in towns of the same description. There is a good deal of poverty, want of cleanliness, and wretchedness among the population in the outskirts and lanes of the town, who are mostly the lower orders of Irish. Smuggling, though carried on to a great extent formerly, if at all, is not carried on now to any extent. It is to the vigilance of the officers of the Coast-Guard that this is in a great measure owing. Pawnbroking is carried on among the Irish residents, but not to a great extent.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Manufactures.*—The high price of fuel prevents the establish-

WIGTON.

ment of any extensive manufactures in the parish. There are a number of individuals engaged in weaving, in the employment of Glasgow houses. The wages allowed are extremely low, and totally insufficient to support a family in a comfortable manner.

*Navigation.*—There are thirty-eight vessels at present belonging to this port. Tonnage of 37 vessels in the year 1835, 1789. A pier was built about twenty years ago, at which tolerably large vessels may lay; but they can only approach at high water.

*Public Associations.*—There is an agricultural Society, and a Society for the encouragement of fishermen; but they have been so lately established, that any beneficial influence they may have cannot yet be judged of.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—At present, the only place of worship in the parish to accommodate the population attached to the Establishment is a wooden building erected about three years ago at the expense of the clergyman, at the risk of getting the seats let,—the burgh being entirely without public funds. The old church was condemned by the presbytery in 1833, as ruinous and irreparable. It was built in the year 1766, and was calculated to contain about 700 sitters. There were no free sittings in the Old Church, but the sittings were so low as to be within the power of the poorest in the community.

*Manse.*—The minister has no manse; but, by an act of Parliament of George IV., he has L. 30 in lieu thereof. Strictly speaking he has no glebe, but about one hundred years ago, one of his predecessors in office, Mr Laurie of Reid Castle, a man of fortune, in order to encourage his successors in office in all time coming, mortgaged to them about thirty acres of land in the adjoining parish of Leswalt, in order to supply the want of a glebe. As by the act of Parliament above alluded to, every clergyman whose living is under L. 200 per annum, and has no glebe, is allowed L. 20 in lieu thereof, immediately after the passing of that act, I made application to be ranked in the list of those who have not legal glebes; for it appeared to me, as well as to others whom I consulted, that it could not be the intention of the Legislature to consider any private benefaction to a living, (and particularly that of a clergyman to his successors in office,) as part of that living. The Officers of State, however, opposed my claim, and the Court of Session, by a majority, decided against me, on the plea, that, though the mortgaged lands do not legally constitute a glebe, they

are at least equal to a glebe. It was evidently the intention of the benevolent donor to place his successors in office on a footing with their neighbours, or, to use his own words, "to encourage my successors in office in all time coming." Although it would be presumption in me to call in question the legality of the decision of the Supreme Court of Scotland, I cannot avoid saying, that it totally defeats the generous intention of the donor, and holds out but little encouragement to such benevolent individuals, as, knowing the peculiar state of any particular parish, may contribute of his private fortune to better the circumstances of the officiating clergyman of that parish. The lands mortified to supply the place of a glebe were valued by the Court of Session, in the year 1821, at L. 56, when farm produce was double the value that it has been for some years. The same benevolent clergyman who mortified the lands, left a house and garden in the town to supply the want of a manse; but as it was condemned by the presbytery about twenty years ago, and as the funds which Mr Laurie had in view to repair it (the vacant stipend,) have not, for many years, been available, the house is in a state of ruin.

*Stipend.*—My present emoluments are L. 150 per annum, the minimum. That portion of stipend, L. 24, 10s. 8d. per year, payable by the magistrates, has now been four years in arrear. The magistrates have proposed to assess the inhabitants for the amount, but hitherto the assessment has been resisted. I believe that Stranraer is the only instance in Scotland of a royal burgh, the seat of a presbytery, having only one minister, and that minister on the small stipend list.

*Chapels of Ease.*—There are no chapels of ease attached to the Established Church, nor any missionaries or catechists. The following are the places of worship within the parish not connected with the Establishment: 1 Reformed Presbyterian; 2 United Secession; 1 Relief; and 1 Catholic chapel. The ministers of the above churches are chiefly paid by seat rents. None of their stipends exceed L. 150; and they average from L. 100 to L. 120 per annum.

Of the population (in 1835) 1729 belonged to the Established Church; 1033 to the Protestant Dissenting congregations; and 161 to the Catholics; 151 not known to belong to any religious denomination. From the above statement, it would appear that, since the census taken in 1831, the population has decreased from 3329 to 3074. This is to be accounted for in the following man-

ner, viz. : A number of new houses have been built in the suburbs, within the Parliamentary boundary, since the passing of the Reform Bill, and which are occupied by persons who lately resided in the town, and who still consider themselves as belonging to the town, though not, strictly speaking, in the parish, and such of them as belonged to the Established Church, still attend it. All the seats in the temporary building for the accommodation of the Established congregation are let, and the congregation is very regular in attendance. I believe that the Dissenting chapels are well attended also. The communicants on the roll last year were 447 : the average number may be about 400. The average amount of the collections at the church-door for religious and charitable purposes, may be about L. 60 per annum.

*Religious Societies.*—A Bible Society was instituted in 1809; amount of funds about L. 55. There is also a Sabbath School Society.

*Education.*—The schools in the parish are, one parochial; one supported by a Society; and six unendowed. The branches taught in the parochial school are, English, French, Latin, Greek, practical mathematics, writing, and accounts. In the other schools, English, writing, and accounts. The salary of the parochial schoolmaster is L. 20 per annum, and the amount of school fees about L. 50. He has no allowance for a house or garden. The average salaries of the other teachers may be about L. 25. The general expense of education per year is from 12s. to L. 1. Of the young betwixt six and fifteen years of age, there are few who cannot either read or write. Few, if any, born in the parish, above fifteen years of age, but can both read and write.

*Libraries.*—There are two excellent public subscription libraries in the parish,—the one containing works of general literature, the other chiefly of theological works. The members of both reside in the town and neighbourhood. There is a very good public reading-room, at which several Scotch, English, and Irish newspapers are received. There is a periodical published in the town monthly. It has been about eighteen months in existence.

*Charitable Institutions.*—A Dispensary for giving advice and medicines to the poor (called the Stranraer and Rhins of Galloway Public Dispensary,) was instituted about twenty years ago. It is supported by subscriptions among the inhabitants of the town and neighbouring parishes. The funds have hitherto been ade-

quate to the expenditure. The average number of patients is from 50 to 60 yearly.

*Friendly Societies.*—There are three Friendly Societies, which have been about twenty years in existence. They certainly have been attended with good effects in promoting industry, and a desire of independence among their members.

*Savings' Bank.*—There is a Savings' bank in the parish, which was established in the year 1826. The average amount deposited yearly is L. 500, and withdrawn about L. 100. The investments are generally made by mechanics and servant girls.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid may be about forty. There is no stated sum allowed to each per week or year, except to such as are confined to bed. The funds from which the poor are supplied, consist of the collections at the church, averaging about L. 50 per annum, exclusive of occasional extraordinary collections in aid of the funds; the interest of L. 450 bequeathed by the late Earl of Stair; and about L. 30 from legacies. Hitherto, there has been no legal assessment for the poor, but it is feared it must ere long be resorted to. The bulk of the poor are natives of Ireland, who have left their native country in quest of food and employment, and who, probably, having in their native country been brought up beggars, have no disinclination to beg. There are many of the poor natives of the parish who have a disinclination to ask parochial relief; but it is most gratifying to think that there are also many humane persons to whom Providence has been more liberal, who seek out such objects and relieve them.

*Prisons.*—There is a prison in the parish, in which about 40 prisoners were confined during last year,—some for debt, others for theft and assault. The prison is well secured. Proper means are observed for preserving the health of the prisoners, in diet, &c. It is under the superintendence of a jailor and two assistants.

*Fairs.*—There are, in the course of the year, five or six fairs for black-cattle, and three or four for horses.

*Inns, Ale-houses, &c.*—There are two very good inns in the parish, besides many others where spirits and ale are sold.

*Fuel.*—Coals brought by sea, and turf, are the principal fuel. Coals are very high in price.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Since the last Statistical Account was published, there have been a great many new houses built in the town. The necessa-

ries of life are much higher than they were at that period, being, with very few exceptions, as high as in the larger towns.

*January 1839.*

## PARISH OF KIRKCOLM.

PRESBYTERY OF STRANRAER, SYNOD OF GALLOWAY.

REV. WILLIAM ROSE, MINISTER. \*

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THE word Kirkcolm is a corruption of Kirk Columba, the parish having been named after St Columba, who flourished in the sixth century. It is uncertain whether this celebrated person was born in Ireland or Scotland, but, according to Buchanan and Spottiswood, he was held in great repute in the latter country. He established himself in one of the western islands, called from him Icolmkill, or the chapel of Columba, and devoted his life to the conversion of the natives to Christianity. Missionaries emanated from that island to preach the Gospel in various parts of the west of Scotland; and the church built in this district was dedicated to him.

*Extent, Boundaries, &c.*—This parish is a small peninsula, surrounded by the sea on all sides except the south, where it is bounded by the parish of Leswalt. Its average breadth, from the bay of Loch Ryan to the Irish Channel, is 4 miles: its length, along the west coast of Loch Ryan, from 5 to 5½ miles. On this coast there is a shelving bank of sand, called the Scar, running obliquely into the loch about a mile, not entirely covered by the sea at the highest spring tides: it forms a natural basin called the Wig, which affords a secure anchorage in severe weather for small vessels, while ships of larger size find a safe retreat on the opposite coast of the loch, where there is greater depth of water.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The parish generally presents to the eye an undulating surface. The hills partake of the character of the adjoining parts of the country; they are never high nor steep, and the absence of abrupt or rocky acclivities has en-

\* Drawn up, at the request of the Minister of the Parish, by Graham F. Moore, Esq. Barrister at Law, of the Temple, London.



abled them to be cultivated to their summits. The greater part of the land slopes gradually towards the west. For more than three miles from the southern boundary of the parish, the coast of Loch Ryan is a sandy beach; there is next a rocky promontory, Clachan Heugh: to the north of it is the Bay of Portmore, affording good anchorage for large vessels: from this bay, round Corswall Point and along the Irish Channel, the land is bounded by a ridge of rocks, presenting bold and striking features. Towards the mouth of Loch Ryan there are several caves and fissures in the rocks; one of which affords an entrance to the extent of 145 feet, as ascertained by measurement.

*Meteorology.*—It appears from the returns of observations made at Corswall Lighthouse, and kindly furnished for this work by Mr Stevenson, the engineer, that for the ten years ending with 1834, the mean height of the barometer at 9 A. M. is 29.806 in., and at 9 P. M. 29.806 in.: that the mean height of the thermometer at the same time is 49° 942 and 49° 189: and that the quantity of rain indicated by the guage is 34.10 inches.

The prevailing winds are from the north-west to the south-west, which blow over the whole western part of the parish with great violence, especially during the winter months; but where the hills or the few plantations that exist, break the force of these winds, the climate may be ranked among the mildest in Scotland, and the proximity to the sea on all sides prevents the continuance of frost or snow. Less rain falls here than on the opposite coast of Ayrshire, where the hills are much higher.

The most frequent maladies are consumption, rheumatism, and inflammatory disorders caused by exposure to cold, epilepsy, and paralysis.

*Hydrography.*—Springs of pure water abound in almost every part of the parish. There is only one stream of any consequence: it serves to turn the mill of Corswall, where nearly half of the grain of the parish is ground. A mile from the Bay of Lochryan, towards the centre of the parish, there is a lake called Loch Connel, fed by several streams flowing from the adjoining marshy lands: it is about a mile in circumference: there is nothing striking in the scenery around it. A stream issues from it, which, joined by some small rivulets, enters the parish of Leswalt, where it turns two mills above two miles distant from each other; but both close to the southern boundary of Kirkcolm, at which the grain of the adjacent parts of Kirkcolm is ground.

*Geology.* \*—The geology of Kirkcolm is not without interest. Professor Jameson was the first who traced out the geological structure of the great southern high land of Scotland, and ascertained that its predominating rocks belong to the transition class. Afterwards his celebrated pupil, Dr Boué, and a good observer, Dr Grierson of New Galloway, now minister of Cockpen, in Mid-Lothian, went over the same ground, and obtained similar results. Dr Thomson, in the second volume of his *Outlines of Mineralogy*, at pp. 181, 182, sums up what was previously known in the following terms: "There is a range of transition mountains in Scotland, which begins at St Abb's head, the southern termination of the Frith of Forth, and extends with little interruption till it terminates in the Irish sea, on the north side of Loch Ryan in Galloway. This range extends in length about 120 miles, and includes the mountains of Galloway, Dumfries, Lanark, Peebles, Mid-Lothian, and Berwick. The highest part of the tract is near Moffat, where Hartfell rises to the height of 3300 feet above the level of the sea. Lowther, near Lead-hills, is 3130 feet high. This mountainous tract is composed of transition rocks," p. 182. The Doctor adds, "Good sections of this greywacke may also be seen in the mountains north from Loch Ryan. The road from Glasgow to Portpatrick crosses these mountains. It is steep and inconvenient for the traveller, but admirably contrived to furnish the geologist with sections of transition rocks. The hill behind General Wallace's house at Cairn is composed of clay-slate, and this slate, alternating with greywacke, may be traced for several miles north till the mountainous country suddenly terminates a little to the south of Girvan."

Now, to satisfy any observer that the northern part of the peninsula, which forms the parish of Kirkcolm, is merely a continuation of the great transition range just noticed, rising from the western shore of Loch Ryan on the eastern boundary of the parish, and terminating in the Irish Channel on its western boundary, it is only necessary to inspect the rocks, as they are visible at the following points: at Lady Bay and Sloughnagarry, near Corswall House, at the parish school-house, at Portmoulin, near Corswall Lighthouse, at Aires, which lies south-west from it, and at Cairnbrook, on the south-west extremity of the parish. At all these points, strata of greywacke, alternating with greywacke

\* The compiler of this Statistical Account has been favoured with the view here given of the geology, and of the testacology, of Kirkcolm, by his friend George M'Intosh, Esq. Dumbrilton, Glasgow.

slate and clay-slate, are distinctly visible: their position nearly vertical, their direction nearly east and west by the compass, and their being destitute of organic remains demonstrate their identity with the strata of the great southern high land above referred to. There are some minor points in reference to these strata which may be noticed. When a rivulet flows into the sea, whether it traverses the strata across the direction of their cleavage, or parallel to it, some disturbance in their direction is observable. At Portmoulin, the strata run in a direction nearly parallel to the sea, which here washes the northern boundary of the parish; on the east side of a rivulet, the strata run in a direction nearly from north-east to south-west; while on the western side of the rivulet, their direction is nearly from south-west to north-east. At Cairnbrook, where the western termination of the strata sinks nearly at right angles into the sea, the rivulet does not cut the strata as at Portmoulin, but flows nearly parallel to their direction; a slight disturbance, however, is also here observable; on the north side of the brook, they run in a direction nearly from north-west to south-east, while on its south side they run nearly due east and west. Whenever these strata are exposed to the action of the sea, the clay-slate is decomposed much more rapidly than the other materials. Deep and well-defined chasms are thus left, which the motion of the waters is rapidly filling in some situations with the shingle of the coast, consisting of water-worn fragments of granite, greenstone, porphyry, basaltic amygdaloid, sand, and sea-weeds. From this coast the sea seems to have everywhere receded, and, after having for a time acted upon these strata, to have left them free from its influence. In this case the site of the clay-slate strata may be observed at some distance from the shore, to form green swarded intervals, while the greywacke, &c. may be detected in their original position in rocky relief. On the beach, the spaces between the greywacke strata vacated by the clay-slate, are used by fishermen as small harbours or rather docks, into which they drag and secure their boats. The tide fills these chasms, while the greywacke strata are elevated above its influence. These appearances are chiefly to be observed on the eastern and western shores of the peninsula; on the northern shore, where a stratum of greywacke is exposed to the ocean in a lateral position, they are less to be noticed. Where exposed to the action of rain and the atmosphere, these strata become nearly of a white colour; wherever they are exposed to the action of the sea, they become al-

most black ; Algae and Testacea adhere to them very sparingly, while on the conglomerate rock at Corswall, these substances are found covering it everywhere in the greatest profusion. The effect produced by the sea upon the colour of rocks is curious. Greywacke becomes from the action of the water of an uniform black, while the boulders of greenstone found on the shores of Loch Ryan assume an appearance exactly resembling the surface of some of the more massive corallines, of a paler colour than the fracture of the stone, and of regular figures and shades. On a close inspection of the surface of such rocks, no incipient process of vegetation, or of chemical decomposition, can be detected. In the greywacke strata are numerous thin veins of quartz : thin veins of carbonate of lime, and carbonate of barytes also occurs in them ; and throughout these in most places a regular system of cleavage prevails, which causes vents to ascend through them at an angle of about  $45^{\circ}$  from the surface of the ocean. Extending from the beach near Corswall House, to Sloughnagarry, a distance of about two miles, there is what miners would term the outcrop of a conglomerate rock, which evidently lies in an unconformable position over the greywacke strata, and, like the conglomerate of Oban, similarly situated, it seems composed chiefly of fragments of those rocks, varying in size from a circumference of several feet to the fifth and sixth part of an inch. Some of these fragments are water-worn, but the greater part of them retain a sharp fracture, and are but little abraded. The smallest fragments are generally the finest grained, and the whole are cemented by a friable substance, resembling old red sandstone. This conglomerate is traversed in veins, strata, and masses, by the old red sandstone, and covered by a coating of sandy light soil, mixed with gravel, formed chiefly of fragments of water-worn chlorite slate, quartz rock, and granite. On this soil, some of the most thriving plantations of forest trees on the Corswall estate are situated. The extent of this deposit is not accurately ascertained. It seems identical with the conglomerate of Oban and Kerrera, described by geologists. It ought not to escape the attention of the geologist, how rapidly the old red sandstone, wherever it occurs in strata in this deposit, is decomposed, and floated off by the action of the sea, nor how rapidly the chasms thus left are filled by such influx of the tide, with sand and shingle of a different composition, which seems destined to consolidate in place of the sandstone strata. In a small ravine near Lady Bay, there oc-

curs, on the sides of a brook, a sandstone stratum of considerable thickness, immediately under a stratum, about two feet thick, of a clayey schistus. The latter breaks easily into rhomboidal fragments, and both strata dip in a gentle slope to the west, cropping out to the bay about a quarter of a mile from the greywacke strata, as seen at Lady Bay. The sandstone stratum splits into laminated fragments, and has been used as a building stone; and might, perhaps, in some situations be useful for paving stones. These strata evidently repose in an unconformable position over the greywacke strata, and seem to take the place of the conglomerate, which terminates abruptly at Sloughnagarry, where a small ravine divides it from this laminated sandstone stratum. The latter is evidently but of limited extent.

From the foregoing observations, it is obvious that the geological position to be assigned to Kirkcolm is that of the greywacke and old red sandstone formation. It is in such formations that the metalliferous veins, particularly those of copper ore, are generally most prevalent. From Corswall House to the southern extremity of the parish, the red sandstone conglomerate formation recedes in its outcrop from the beach, which is low and flat, and strewed with shingle and boulder-stones of granite, sienite, greywacke, greenstone, basaltic amygdaloid, chlorite slate, greywacke slate, clay slate, &c. Several boulders of indurated chalk (the Irish limestone) have also been found on this beach; but it seems probable that these have served for ballast to vessels. Their surface is curiously perforated, as if eaten by some insect, probably some marine species preserving characteristics analogous to the pholas. It was in this part of the parish that Sir Andrew Agnew, some years ago, put down a bore in search of coal; but the undertaking was abandoned. The following were the strata passed:

Surface soil,	-	3 feet.	0 inches.
Red sandstone conglomerate,	-	19	0
Red freestone,	-	6	0
White freestone,	-	90	0
Stone of clay,	-	0	14
Black freestone,	-	0	10

Upon the estate of Corswall a stratum of clay occurs very near the surface, and very abundant. It possesses the characters of potter's clay; and, in the expectation that it might be found to answer as a body clay, in lieu of the Derbyshire clay, it has been tried by practical persons, who report it to afford but little refuse, and to work sweetly. The ware, however, made from it, was discoloured by the iron in the clay, in a way which was not approved

of; but since the trials of it were made, some clay has been found of much superior whiteness and purity. This stratum is about two feet in depth.

In the more elevated situations in the parish, there are several tracts of peat moss. As is frequent in such situations, the stems and trunks of forest trees are found in these mosses, of different species, and of large size.

*Zoology.*—Under this head there is little to distinguish Kirkcolm from the rest of the west coast of Scotland. As to quadrupeds, foxes and badgers have not been seen here for the last thirty years. There are still polecats in some places. Rabbits, of which there are some everywhere, are not nearly so plenty as they once were. There are many hares, though they have not now strong cover everywhere to protect them. Moles are much diminished in number by the employment of mole-catchers on many farms. Of birds, the heath-fowl have long left this parish; grouse very seldom are seen in it; partridges are in abundance; pheasants have been lately introduced into the plantations of Corswall, and multiply rapidly. Along the shores, or in the interior of the parish, wild goose and wild duck, teal and widgeon, the green and the gray plover, the large and the small curlew, the snipe, woodcock, and rail, may, at the proper seasons, be found. Starlings and field-fares now come in much larger flocks than formerly; and some of both species build their nests here. There are a few wood-pigeons. Many of the small blue pigeons build in some of the caves on the shore; in other caves, rooks and hawks, and owls of different kinds, bring out their young. Of singing birds, the lark and goldfinch are less abundant; the thrush and blackbird much more abundant than formerly. The species of fishes most prevalent on the shores of this parish are salmon, sea-trout, herring, cod, haddock, whiting, ling, mackarel, mullet, sea-eel, sole, flounder, skate, turbot, halibut, gurnard, lobster, and crab. The sea-urchin is also often found, but mostly destitute of its inhabitant.

*Testaceology.*—The following list contains the shells most commonly found in Loch Ryan, many of them destitute of the animals originally inhabiting them, which have perished; but the list may not be without interest: *Solen ensis*, *Solen siliqua*, *Ostrea edulis*, *Turbo neritoides*, *Pecten maximus*, *Pecten varius*, *Venerupis pullastra*, *Venerupis perforans*, *Turbo littoreus*. This testacea is very abundant, adhering in a live state to the conglomerate rocks near Corswall House, where they are washed by the sea; *Bulla*

*lignaria*, *Balanus sulcatus*, *Cardium echinatum*, *Cardium levigatum*, *Lucina radula*, *Turritella terebra*, *Psammobia Ferroensis*, *Lutraria elliptica*, *Trochus magus*, *Trochus umbilicatus*, *Trochus zizyphinus*, *Cytherea exoleta*, *Anomia ephippium*, *Purpura lapillus*. This latter testacea is found alive in considerable abundance, adhering to the red sandstone conglomerate of Corswall. It is from a vein in this animal that the liquid substance which imparts a brilliant and lasting purple dye to linens and cottons, is obtained. When first extracted from the animal, this liquid is of a muddy yellow tint, but becomes purple on exposure to the atmosphere. It is known by the fetid smell of garlic, which it has when the vein is first opened, but this speedily disappears. *Modiola vulgaris*, *Fusus corneus*, *Fusus antiquus*, *Rostellaria pes-pelecani*, *Mactra solida*, *Mya truncata*, *Mya arenaria*, *Nassa reticulata*, *Venus gallina*, *Patella vulgata*, the *limpet*, adhering in great abundance to the red sandstone conglomerate on the shore of Corswall, wherever exposed to the flux and influx of the tide. When the limpet is first detached from the rock, its inhabitant contains abundantly a liquid resembling in hue the yellow of raw Terra Sienna, which may be used as a pigment in water colours. The extraordinary quantities in which the *limpet*, *whelk*, *lepas*, &c. adhere to this conglomerate deposit, are very remarkable, especially when the boulder stones with which the shore is strewed, consisting of masses of granite, sienite, greywacke, basaltic amygdaloid, greenstone, serpentine, &c. are observed to be wholly destitute of them. The same remark applies in regard to the sea-weed; and where the conglomerate is not exposed to the action of the tides, the different species of lichens and other stone plants are much more abundantly spread on its surface than on the greywacke and slate rocks of the same locality.

*Botany.\**—From the extent and variety of coast by which the greater part of Kirkcolm is surrounded, we should naturally expect to find a considerable variety of those plants which grow in maritime districts. In this we are not disappointed; for, besides the common species usually found in such situations, we find abundantly *Scirpus maritimus* and *Savii*; *Asplenium marinum*, *Juncus maritimus*, *Oenanthe pimpinelloides*; more sparingly, *Carex extensa*, *Sagina maritima*, *Pinguicula Lusitanica*, *Erythræa littoralis*, *Crithmum maritimum*, *Daucus maritimus*; also, *Hypericum An-*

\* For this account of the botany of Kirkcolm, the author is indebted to the kindness of Mr Gilbert M'Nab of Edinburgh, who has visited this district.

*drosæmum*. On the grassy banks and rocks on the coast, and in dry barren pastures throughout the parish, we find *Ulex nanus*, *Jasione montana*, *Sedum Anglicum*; and rarely, *Symphytum officinale*, var. *flore ferri nigro*. In the bays and ditches, *Anagallis tenella*, *Helosciadium nodiflorum*, *Lythrum salicaria*. In a loch near the boundary of this parish with Leswalt, there is abundance of *Lobelia Dortmanna*. In the cultivated fields and waste grounds, *Lepidium campestre*, *Stachys arvensis*, *Lamium intermedium* and *incisum*, grow in profusion.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

This parish is singularly deficient in antiquities, records, and traditions. The only account of it to be found, except in the *Old Statistical Account*, is that contained in Sympson's Description of Galloway, written in 1684, and published in 1823.

*Land-owners*.—The chief land-owners, placed in the order of their valuations are, the Proprietors of the Ship Bank, Glasgow, who have acquired the lands of West Corswall and Bansalloch; James Carrick Moore, Esq. of East Corswall; Sir Andrew Agnew of Lochnaw, Bart., M. P. for the county. The other land-owners are, David Ritchie, Esq. of Aires; John Fergusson, Esq. of Cairnbrook; Charles Wallace, John Forsyth, and Alexander M'Neill, Esqs., who have acquired parts of the lands of Aires and Knockbrake; and Mr James M'Meihan of M'Meihan's croft.

*Parochial Registers*.—No parochial register has been preserved here of an earlier date than 1775. In that year a register of births and baptisms, but with many omissions, commenced: a register of proclamations commenced in 1791, and soon after, a record of the ordinary business of the kirk-session: a register of burials commenced in 1796. Since the beginning of the year 1822, the births and proclamations, except in the case of Dissenters, have been pretty regularly entered. Burials are entered as given in by the kirk-officer to the session-clerk: and this register, as kept at present, appears to be nearly correct.

*Antiquities*.—In the northern part of the parish, within a mile of the sea, stand the remains of Corswall Castle, "once," says Sympson, "a considerable house," but when he wrote, "wholly ruinous." It is a tower, with walls of great thickness, built of irregular stones, with mortar, now as hard as the stones, and with small slits for windows. It is now not more than 20 feet high. As the higher parts of the wall fell down, the stones were taken by the people in the neighbourhood to build their dikes. About fifty years ago,



a cannon seven feet in length, with a bore of three inches diameter, was discovered in the ruins; and a few years ago, a silver plate with an inscription, a gold ring, and some coins were found. About a mile from this castle, on a farm called Kirkbride, there was once a church dedicated to St Bride. Its foundations may still be traced. A part of the church-yard wall forms the side of a cottage. A tenant on the adjoining lands remembers, that, forty years ago, he dug up decayed pieces of coffins, with the iron handles, skulls, and other bones. The site was evidently chosen from the proximity of a well of remarkably pure water, which never fails in the driest seasons. There was anciently another chapel, called Kilmorie, or the Chapel of the Virgin, about a mile and a half from the present parish church, on the coast of Loch Ryan towards the south; it was ruinous 150 years ago, and nothing is now visible but some fragments of a wall. The site of this chapel also appears to have been suggested by a spring of excellent water near it, of old esteemed beneficial in many disorders. Superstition attached to it the discriminating power of becoming dry, if the patient for whom its water was sought had a mortal malady, but of appearing in abundance if the disease was curable. From this chapel of Kilmorie, said to have been destroyed at the Reformation, a stone was brought, which, when the late parish church of Kirkcolm was repaired, 118 years ago, was placed as a lintel over its west door. In 1821, when that church was pulled down, this stone was left in the church-yard, and it has since been removed to the garden of Mr Carrick Moore. It is of grey whinstone, carved on one side with armorial bearings, in so rude and primitive a style, that the figures can only be conjectured. There is the appearance of a shield, on which an animal is sculptured, surrounded by a cornucopia. A large cross, with some resemblance to the Maltese cross, surmounts the shield, on the lower part of which there appear to be two supporters, one resembling a fish, the other a serpent. On the other side of the stone is a figure whose arms are extended on a cross, and beneath it another figure, with the scarcely discernible appearance of an animal by its side.

*Modern Buildings.*—The present parish church, built, not upon the site of the late church, but within less than a quarter of a mile from it, is a neat and commodious building, without a tower, but ornamented with buttresses. The only modern mansion deserving notice is Corswall House, the residence of Dr Carrick Moore, beautifully situated on a rising ground on the west bank of Loch

Ryan, commanding a view of the loch and of the adjoining country, and surrounded by thriving young plantations.

*Corswall Lighthouse.*—The building in this parish which chiefly claims a detailed notice, is *Corswall Lighthouse*.\*—It is hardly possible to allude to any of the maritime establishments in the Frith of Clyde, without alluding also to the noble estuary itself, which is perhaps connected with fewer dangers to the mariner than any other navigable tract of similar extent in the united kingdom. If, for example, we look at the Thames and the Mersey, which lead to London and Liverpool, we find them encumbered to a perilous extent with sand-banks, while they are wholly unconnected with harbours of refuge; whereas in the Clyde, from Greenock to its entrance between Ireland and the opposite shores of Scotland, a distance of about 100 miles, there is every where an ample depth of water, with scarcely a snare to be met with; while it is connected with the spacious natural harbours of Campbelltown and Lamlash on the north; and of Loch Ryan on the south, at the entrance of which Corswall Lighthouse is situated. The erection of this very useful lighthouse was first brought under the notice of the Commissioners of the Northern Lighthouses by the late Mr Quintin Leitch, chief magistrate of Greenock; a gentleman who, in early life, was distinguished as a mariner, and took much interest in every improvement of the navigation of the Clyde. The first stone of the lighthouse was laid by Mr Leitch, on the 17th of June 1815, and the light was exhibited for the first time on the 15th of September 1816. The building is situated on a projecting rocky part of Corswall point. It consists of a tower of masonry 86 feet in height, on the top of which the lantern is placed. The dwelling-house for the light-keepers is built apart from the tower, and consists of two floors, with cellars for the oil and other stores below. At some distance on either side of the lighthouse, there is a boat-creek, with roads leading from thence to the lighthouse, one of which also joins the parish road at some distance. The steps of the stair, and the other sandstone materials were brought from quarries in Ayrshire and the Isle of Arran; but the rubble walls are built of the whinstone rock of the neighbourhood. As this description of stone does not readily adhere to mortar, much trouble was experienced in making the walls perfectly water-tight.

\* For the account of Corswall Lighthouse, the compiler begs leave to make his grateful acknowledgements to Robert Stevenson, Esq. Engineer to the Northern Lighthouses.

Pointing the joints carefully with mortar, and coating them with unboiled linseed oil, over which clean sharp sand, carefully screened and dried, and in some instances, even used in a moderately hot state, was immediately cast, proved to be a perfect remedy. Since this was done, about fourteen years ago, the walls, which before were so moist as to threaten the rotting of the lath, were rendered completely tight.

The light-room consists of a frame of 16 sashes, and measures about 7 feet in height, and 12 feet in diameter. It is glazed with polished plate glass, in squares measuring about 27 inches each, and of the thickness of a quarter of an inch; and is covered with a dome-shaped roof, consisting of an outer and inner shell of strong copper, with a space of an inch and a half left between them, to prevent condensation in the interior of the roof. Without such precaution, the reflectors are apt to be destroyed by the dropping of the water from the roof, especially before the light-room has been heated by the lamps. The light is from sperm-ceti oil, with argand burners placed in the focus of 12 parabolic reflectors of silvered copper. So powerful is the effect of these reflectors, that they require to be screened during the day from the sun's rays, to prevent the ignition of the lamps. The fittings of the reflecting apparatus and light-room generally, together with the arrangements of this establishment, are very complete. The compact and neat state of the machinery and its brass case, and the very simple and complete manner in which the burners are withdrawn from the reflectors for the purpose of cleaning them, are particularly worthy of notice. The light-room is kept remarkably clean, and not a drop of oil is to be seen on the floor, while the roof is entirely free from the effects of condensed water or smoke. To distinguish Corswall light from other lights on the coast, the reflectors here are fitted upon an upright shaft and a frame or chandelier, constructed with four faces, which are made to revolve by a train of machinery. On two of the opposite faces of this frame, the light is of the natural appearance, but on the other two sides, shades of red glass are placed before the reflectors. The revolution of this apparatus "exhibits a light resembling a star of the first magnitude, and one of a brilliant red colour, alternately. Each light appears in its brightest state at intervals of every two minutes, and gradually becoming less luminous, is eclipsed."\* This characteristic effect, produced by the alternate

\* British Pharos, p. 67.

red and white light, with intervals of darkness, is similar to the light at the Bell Rock, which is so beautifully alluded to in the following lines of Sir Walter Scott, written in the Album of that edifice, in his visit to it in the year 1814.

"Pharos loquitur."  
 "Far in the bosom of the deep,  
 On these wild shelves my watch I keep,  
 A ruddy gem of changeful light  
 Bound on the dusky brow of night:  
 The seaman bids my lustre hail,  
 And scorns to strike his timorous sail."

Each of the Northern Light-houses is furnished with a barometer, thermometer, and rain-gauge, and observations are made upon their state every morning and evening, when the results are registered in the columns of the returns made every month to the engineer. A train of such observations cannot fail to be highly interesting in the course of time, when it is considered that the same system is observed in all the Northern Light-houses, extending to the Isle of Man, the Hebrides, Orkneys, and Zetland Isles, and the eastern coast of Scotland. The returns made to the engineer contain also an account of the expenditure of oil and other stores, and notice of any shipwrecks which occur on the neighbouring coast. There are two light-keepers at Corswall, who alternately mount guard through the night, keeping watch as on shipboard. The view from the light-house tower is extensive and striking; comprehending a large tract of the coast of Ireland, terminating in the Fair-Head, Rachlin Island, the Mull and Peninsula of Cantire, Ailsa Craig, the Isle of Arran, and the Cumbraes.

### III.—POPULATION.

There is no account of the population of this parish previous to 1755, when it was 765; in 1796, it was 945. The increase from the census in 1821 to that in 1831, which was only 75, was in the village of Steuart-town: the rural population had not increased. The yearly average for the last seven years is, of births, 50, of deaths, 30, of marriages, 14. The following is a return of the present number of persons of different ages in the village, the population of which is 426.

Under 15 years of age,	185
Between 15 and 30,	115
30 and 50,	110
50 and 70,	42
Upwards of 70	24
Unmarried women above 45,	7
men above 50,	2
Widowers above 50,	6

One of the principal heritors resides in the parish for the

greater part of the year: Two proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards reside in it always. Of the labouring population of the whole parish, nearly one-third are Irish, or descended of Irish parents. The number of persons who are now, or at some period of their lives have been, subject to insanity is 9; of idiots, 5; of deaf and dumb persons, 2.

*Character of the People.*—The people are in general sober, industrious, and regular in their conduct. The excessive use of spirits by many is to be lamented: but this evil does not appear to have increased in proportion to the increase of population during the last forty years. Petty thefts are not unfrequent, and there is some poaching; but smuggling, which once existed to considerable extent, has long ceased. There has been, especially during the last twenty years, a marked improvement in the habits of living, and the general advancement in the country has been fully participated. The people are contented with their circumstances, and cheerful. Every winter there is a farmer's ball, attended by a very respectable company; there is also a small farmer's ball, a ploughman's ball, and sometimes a sailor's ball. The neatness of the appearance of the congregation at church has long been noticed by strangers. From the situation of the parish, many of the natives become sailors. Their character as seamen is held in estimation; and in the Regattas at Stranraer for the last three years, the Kirkcolm boatmen have always gained the prize as rowers.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

##### *Agriculture.*—

No. of acres, imperial measure, in the parish, which are either cultivated, or occasionally in tillage,	10,984
No. of acres which have never been cultivated, and remain constantly waste or in pasture, including 260 acres of meadow, is about	1,261

These pasture lands are steep banks, some extent of moss, and a narrow selvage, extending along the rock-bound shore which surrounds the greater part of the parish, consisting of a poor thin soil, scarcely covering the rocks. The mosses are at present chiefly used for fuel. About 120 acres of moss might be brought profitably into cultivation for cropping or meadow ground. Of the remaining pasture lands, from their quality and exposure, only a few patches could be brought into cultivation. It is conceived that the most profitable application of agricultural capital in this parish, would be in draining and cultivating in a better manner

the lands already in tillage. There is no land in a state of undivided common.

*Plantations.*—There are two old and neglected plantations in the western part of the parish. On the east side of it, Mr Carrick Moore has, within the last fifteen years, planted nearly 70 acres. The sycamore and ash are the most hardy trees in resisting strong winds. The pinaster is by far the most hardy of the fir tribe. It was first planted in this county about seventy years ago by the Earl of Galloway, who recommended it as resisting the sea breeze better than any other tree; and experience has justified his recommendation. The prevailing error in this country respecting the management of trees is the idea that the exposure renders it necessary to keep them very close. This plan is equally fatal to their beauty and health. From the exclusion of light and air, no lateral branches can grow, and the plantation assumes the appearance of a clump of leafless poles. Whereas, if the plantations were regularly thinned in time, each tree would expand its branches laterally, and the excess of upward growth would be discouraged. There are young plantations, which show with what facility trees will grow here, when sheltered from the immediate blast.

*Rent of Land.*—The average rent of arable land per acre is about 17s. 4d. There are no grazing farms, nor sheep farms.

*Wages.*—The general rates of labour are as follows: A ploughman receives in money L. 8, 65 stones of meal, 5 bolls of potatoes, and a house and yard: a day-labourer 1s. 2d. in summer, and 1s. in winter: a mason 2s. 6d. in summer, and 2s. in winter: a joiner 2s. per day.

*Live-Stock.*—The native cattle are the well known Galloways, an excellent breed, almost entirely black, and without horns. They are usually reared to two or three years old, and then sold to be fed for the London market. The purest and best Galloways in the Rhins district are bred in this parish.

The introduction of the Ayrshire dairy system into this parish above thirty years ago, by Mr James Ralston of Fineview, and the details of the management of his dairy, consisting of sixty Kyle cows, may be found in the Rev. Mr Smith's General View of the Agriculture of Galloway, and in other similar publications. That dairy has long ceased, and no dairy so large exists here now; but the low price of Galloway stock has led to the adoption of the dairy system in many farms. There are at present thirteen dairies

of Kyle cows in the parish, the largest having 42 cows, the smallest 15 : the total number of cows at these dairies is 357. In breeding, however, from this stock, the Galloway bull is always used. The cows are renewed by queys brought from Ayrshire. The cross of the Ayrshire cow with a Galloway bull is found to be good. They are generally black, resembling very much the Galloways, though their hair is not so long and rough ; and they are said to fatten at an earlier age. A bad description of cattle has lately been introduced from Ireland into this district. They are landed at the neighbouring harbours of Portpatrick and Portnessack, and the farmers are tempted by the low prices to buy them, but they are not kept as breeding stock.

*Husbandry.*—The general character of the husbandry of this district is good. Fifty years ago, the greater part of the lands were covered with heather and whins. About that time the Earl of Galloway, then proprietor of the principal part of the parish, granted leases for twenty-one years certain, and the life of the tenant if he survived that period. The effect of the tenant having this long interest in the lands was very important. The proprietor got a much higher rent than he had previously received, and the tenants were induced to apply an exertion to the improvement of their farms, that would not otherwise have been called forth. The command of shells from banks near the shore in one part of the parish, of shell-sand, and sea-weed on the shores, the facility of importing lime, and the rise in the price of farm-produce from the year 1796, favoured the exertions created by long leases, and enabled the tenants, who were distinguished by their intelligence and respectability, not only to fulfil their engagements, but to increase their own comforts. They were also early enabled to adopt the green crop husbandry, so far as practised in the west of Scotland : and they have latterly, with the aid of bone manure, introduced a considerable extent of drill-turnip husbandry, for which the lands are well adapted. The general rotation of cropping is, 1. oats ; 2d year, oats ; 3d. potatoes and turnips ; 4. barley, oats, or wheat ; 5. hay and some years pasture ; but in many of the best managed farms, no two white crops are now taken in succession. The advance in agricultural skill in this district has of late been, as over all the west of Scotland, very considerable ; but it is some time before the prejudices in favour of old systems pass altogether away. The principal obstacle to farther improvement is the climate ; but it is conceived that broad belts of plantations

judiciously planted on the western side of the peninsula, would have, in course of time, a most important effect in ameliorating the climate of this district. The value of the adjoining lands would thus be materially increased. Irrigation is not practised here. The general subsoil is an open rock or gravel; and spring or deep draining is more generally applicable than shallow or frequent draining: much, however, of both is wanted. Though there are no hills of considerable elevation, the surface is very irregular; the bogs or deep soil at the bottom of declivities are often wet; on such land, deep draining would be very profitable. From the present agricultural spirit both in proprietors and tenants, considerable improvement by draining may be expected. The general duration of leases is nineteen years; a period sufficient for the encouragement of the tenant. The usual entry to the houses and grass is at Whitsunday, the outgoing tenant having the crop of that year. The first half-year's rent being payable at Martinmas, makes a hard entry to the tenant, and in a country where agricultural capital is scarce, is a bar to improvement. The farm-buildings are in general substantially built, and comfortable. The fences are usually stone dikes; but within the last few years hedges have been planted on some farms, and the tenants seem fully sensible of the benefit to be derived from them. Inconvenience is felt by the tenants in the north-east quarter of the parish from the want of a harbour or landing-place, for receiving and exporting produce. The erection of a small landing place in Lady Bay would be of great utility to the neighbouring farmers.

*Produce.*—It is difficult to estimate accurately the gross produce of the parish. The following is a rough estimate, from the extent of the parish, and supposed average produce per acre :

Produce of grain of all kinds, about	L. 8800
Potatoes, turnips, &c.	3000
Hay, whether meadow or cultivated,	1800
Land in pasture,	6000

L. 19,600

*Fisheries.*—About eighty years ago, there was a great herring fishery in Loch Ryan. Since that time, and especially during the last twenty years, the herring fishery has not, excepting a year now and then, been very productive. Herrings, however, visit the Loch every year; and every year are more or less beneficial to this parish. The quantity of white fish in the loch, has, upon the whole, decreased. Haddocks, which about twenty-five years ago



were in great quantity, and of excellent quality, are now rare, while the quantity of small whittings is much greater than formerly. Small cod, and in the beginning of the year, large cod, are still sometimes caught in abundance; and the price of such fish has never exceeded a penny a pound. Though the quantity of fish in the loch has decreased, the quantity in the sea adjoining, appears to continue the same; and if the fishermen here had capital sufficient to provide smacks of ten tons burden or more, and were thus enabled to go out and fish in the open sea, such fishing, it is conceived, might, from the numbers of fish, and the facility of going to market, become very profitable. There are oysters in Loch Ryan of the best quality. Sir Alexander Wallace, a proprietor on the opposite coast of the loch, has, by Royal Charter, an exclusive right to them. The fishermen of the village of Stewartown pay him a rent of L. 20 a-year for the oysters they can gather on the Scar, the sand-bank already mentioned. The fishermen who pay him for leave to dredge for oysters, belong to other parishes. Crabs and lobsters, which were known to be obtainable at the mouth of Loch Ryan, were neglected by the fishermen here. Within the last few years, fishermen from the opposite coast of Ayrshire, and from Ireland, have had much success in catching them, and have found a ready market at Glasgow, Belfast, and Dublin. In the latter city, they at one time received 3s. 6d. for each lobster. This encouragement tempted them to fish at improper seasons, during the time of spawning; and the result was a great falling off in the quantity caught. It is hoped that this imprudence will not occur again, and that the catching of lobsters may yet become a source of profit to the native fishermen.

*Manufactures.*—The only thing worth mentioning under this head is, that in almost every house in the village, and indeed through the parish generally, young women are much employed in embroidering muslin webs, obtained from Glasgow or Ayrshire. By embroidering they earn, according to their expertness, and the time they can devote to this work, from 8d. to 1s. 3d. a day, and sometimes more.

*Navigation.*—There are at present three small vessels belonging to this parish, under 40 tons burden, employed in the coasting trade.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church is placed, not in the

centre of the parish, but at one side of it, about half a-mile from Loch Ryan, equidistant from the north and south ends of the parish, and near the village of Stewartown. A great majority of the population are within three miles of it: few houses are more than four miles from it. It was built thirteen years ago, was very substantially executed, and is in good repair. It was calculated by measurement to accommodate 650 persons; it has no galleries. If three galleries were erected, which the plan admits, it would accommodate 300 more; but the accommodation originally provided has as yet been sufficient. The feuars in the village have no property in the kirk: seventy sittings were reserved for them by the heritors, which are let to them at 1s. 3d. each sitting, and the proceeds go to the poor's funds. Besides those thus accommodated, many of the villagers have sittings in the kirk as small tenants, or as farm-servants. There are a few free sittings. It is believed that every person desirous to have a sitting in the kirk can obtain it somewhere. The want of a sitting is an excuse for not attending church, made very rarely: the want of decent clothes in a parish where so large a proportion of the population are Irish, is an excuse made very often, and with too much truth. Divine service is in general well attended. The number of communicants at the Established Church is 450. The manse was built above thirty years ago, and is in good repair; the offices are bad. The glebe is in extent 10 acres. It might be let for about L. 15. The stipend is 15 chalders, half barley, half oatmeal and L. 8, 6s. 8d. element money. There are no Dissenting chapels; the Dissenters go to the Dissenting meeting-houses of their several persuasions in Stranraer. There are forty families of Dissenters. They belong chiefly to the two congregations of the United Secession, and to the Reformed Presbyterian congregation; a few belong to the Relief congregation. Heads of families professing themselves to be Dissenters, their children of all ages who have not conformed to the Established Church, a few individuals who live alone, a few who live in families that are not Dissenters, and those families of poor Catholics, make a total of 191 persons not belonging to the Established Church.

*Education.*—There is one parochial school: there are at present three unendowed schools; sometimes there are more. The branches of instruction generally taught in them are, reading and writing, English grammar, arithmetic, book-keeping, mensuration, and navigation; Latin is also taught in the parochial school.

The parish school-house is placed, not near the kirk, but about a mile from it, in the interior of the parish, so as to accommodate the existing population as well as one school-house could do. The schoolmaster's salary is L. 27, with the legal accommodations of dwelling-house and garden; the school fees he actually receives (for all schoolmasters here lose by bad payments) average from L. 15 to L. 18 a-year. The other schools are supported wholly by the school fees. The fees at all the schools are the same. The general expense of education is 1s. a month. No part of the parish is more than four miles distant from the parochial school. The people are generally much alive to the benefits of education. Children usually enter school about six years of age. There are few young persons under fifteen years of age who cannot read and write; but there are Irish labourers in the parish who can neither read nor write.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The average number of poor receiving parish aid is 60. Of these 20 receive, at the stated times for dividing the poor's money, 16s. each, the remaining 40, 12s. each, per annum: but some of both classes, in addition to these sums, receive, when necessary, additional relief. The times of dividing the poor's money are Whitsunday and Martinmas, and after the sacrament, when what has been collected on that occasion is distributed. Sometimes two of the aliments above mentioned go to one family; as to husband and wife, to mother and daughter; or to two sisters, or to any two paupers living together. The parish poor are persons of advanced age or of infirm health, or widows. By far the greater part of them are able to do more or less for their own support, and willing to do what they can. A few of them go about begging within the parish, but seldom elsewhere. Many of them receive assistance from their friends, or from other charitable persons, chiefly from the farmers on whose lands they live, or in whose service they have been. The aliments given from the poor's funds are small; but to a person in a state of general indigence 16s., or even 12s. a year, to assist in paying house rent, or in buying meal or potatoes, is felt to be a great relief; and certainly there is now very rarely any reluctance in applying for it. The funds for the relief of the parish poor are, at an average, about L. 40 per annum, from collections in the church, and about L. 16 from other sources: making a total of L. 56: which, after deduction of L. 6, 10s. paid to the session-clerk, precentor, and kirk-officer, and to the clerks and officers of

the presbytery and synod, of a donation of L. 1 to the Dumfries and Galloway Infirmary, and of about L. 3, 7s. paid for coffins for the poor, leaves to be divided yearly among the poor about L. 45, 3s. There never has been any compulsory assessment here : a voluntary assessment, which in some years has amounted to L. 30, but has more frequently been under L. 20, is paid by the heritors, to provide for cases different from general indigence. Such are cases of poor persons completely disabled by disease, or accident, lunatics or idiots, who have no funds of their own, and whose friends are unable to provide for their children that have fallen to be supported by the parish, and aged persons left destitute, and unable to take care of themselves.

*Fuel.*—Peats are the ordinary fuel in this district. In places near the Bay of Loch Ryan, some coals brought from Ayrshire are also used.

*Ale-houses.*—There are four houses licensed to sell ale and spirits : they are all in the village.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

In addition to what has been mentioned under the heads of population and agriculture, to shew the difference betwixt the present state of the parish, and that which existed at the time of the former Statistical Account, the following fact may be noticed, as sufficiently indicating the general progress : When the former Statistical Account was drawn up, there was only one slated farm-house ; now, on all the considerable farms, in number about 40, the farm-houses are slated, and in general are handsomely furnished. Their offices are for the most part slated also.

From the neighbouring port of Stranraer, the farmers here have the advantage of communication by steam-boats with Glasgow and Belfast, and sometimes with Whitehaven and Liverpool. The parish roads, however, in some parts of the interior, and in the south-west quarter generally, are still very bad.

*March 1837.*

## PARISH OF LESWALT.

• PRESBYTERY OF STRANRAER, SYNOD OF GALLOWAY.

THE REV. ANDREW M'CUBBIN, MINISTER.

---

### L.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—LESWALT signifies the meadow along the burn. The rivulet, on the bank of which stands the old church, takes its rise out of a large moss of nearly 1000 acres, and forms a beautiful cascade where it enters the romantic glen of Altdowran, which signifies the Otter's Burn.

*Extent and Boundaries.*—The parish is bounded on the east, by the Irish Channel; on the west, by Lochryan; on the north, by Kirkcolm parish; and on the south, by Portpatrick. It is nearly 8 square miles.

*Topographical Appearances.*—This parish is very hilly, and there are large tracts of moss in the upper district. They abound in grouse and black game. There are many fine meadows and rich pasture grounds. The meadow which gives name to the parish is now cultivated, and produces very fine wheat crops. That part of the parish next Lochryan is partly flat; but the greater part is hilly, and for four miles the soil is very fine, and produces crops of all kinds, which return very fair profits to the farmers. The part lying along Lochryan has many advantages: vessels lie in great safety in Soleburn Bay. They import lime from Ireland, and sometimes shells; and along the coast, the shell sand has been of real advantage to those who have used it, particularly upon damp soils. Towards the south the ground is more adapted for pasture than cultivation. It is wet, hilly, and interspersed with tracts of moss. Yet of late years, this side of the parish has undergone a great change. The coarse kind has been limed, and rewarded the farmers for their hard labour. The push-plough has been successfully used upon the unequal soils; and when the sod is burnt, and the ashes spread upon the soil with lime, there are

many instances of seven or eight seeds in return. Towards the west, upon the Irish Channel, some parts are fertile, but generally the ground is of a barren nature, and abounds very much in a sandy soil alongst the coast. Large tracts are kept solely for sheep and young cattle. The coast presents awful chasms of broken rocks, as if some convulsion of nature had torn them asunder. Alongst this coast, there is not one safe harbour; although, at no considerable expense, one might be formed at the bay called Saltpan, which would be of mighty advantage for this part of the parish. Since the present incumbent came to the parish, the saltpan was in operation, and produced very excellent salt from sea water.

Along the coast, which extends about eight miles, there are excellent fish, particularly cod; but no fishing station. The fishermen from Portpatrick scruple not to come along the coast and take the fine red cod.

The middle of the parish has of late been mightily improved, being at no great distance from Lochryan, and lime easily obtained at Soleburn about 1s. 4d. per barrel. A fine road passes through the parish about the centre, and sweeps round Lochnaw, and passes on to Portpatrick, and another branch turns to the north, and passes alongst the north of Kirkcolm parish, and terminates at Stranraer. Sir Andrew Agnew, who succeeded his grandfather, Sir Stair Agnew, in 1809, has improved the face of the lands around his castle in a very tasteful manner. Every stranger considers himself highly gratified with the prospect about Lochnaw.

*Climate.*—This parish being situated along the Irish Channel, the weather is very changeable, and dreadful storms visit it, particularly from the west. At certain periods, a creeping mist, assuming various forms, approaches from the Atlantic. Sometimes this presages a long tract of dry weather, and at other times, rain in abundance.

There is a high wooded hill above Lochnaw Castle;  
Take care when Lady Craigh hill puts on her mantle.  
The Lady looks high and knows what is coming;  
Delay not one moment to get under covering.

Although the climate is moist, few parishes can produce instances of longevity similar to what occur here. The beadle died a few years ago, aged one hundred and two years, and his wife eighty-two. Some are living at the advanced ages of ninety-six, eighty-six, and eighty-seven years. The people are generally of a very healthy

and sound constitution, and the labouring classes can perform a very fair day's work at seventy years of age.

*Hydrography.*—The only loch worthy of notice is Lochnaw, which signifies “the loch with the ford.” One of the knights, a Sir James, drained this fine loch in order to have a meadow. The late Sir Stair often said, that some of his successors would again throw it into a lake, which prophecy has been fulfilled by Sir Andrew Agnew, the present proprietor. The water covers above thirty acres of land, and, at the end next Lochnaw Castle, is of considerable depth. Nothing can exceed the beauty of the scenery around this loch, and many strangers come to behold it. There are no rivers in this parish, but two considerable burns, viz. Soleburn and Pooltanton. The former empties itself into Lochryan, having an eastern course; the latter runs south, and empties itself into the Bay of Luce, after a course of ten miles.

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—There are no mines in the parish. The greywacke, called erroneously whinstone, is the common stone found, and some quarries thereof are of a beautiful texture and appearance. The new addition to Lochnaw, lately finished, has been built of this stone. There are also quarries of red sandstone.

*Zoology.*—This parish was famed, in former times, for goat-whey; but it is now very rare to meet with one of these animals. Salmon come up the two burns before-mentioned, during the first flood in the month of August, or early in September, for spawning, and they return when the frost commences. The Bay of Lochryan is famed for oysters, which, at low water, are gathered in abundance along the shore.

*Plantations.*—The only plantations are about Lochnaw Castle; some of the trees are very old, but none remarkable for size. The fir, the ash, the sycamore, and beech, are all in a very thriving state. The greater part have been planted, within these thirty years, by Sir Andrew Agnew.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Leswalt belonged to the monks of Tongland in the reign of James V. The vicarage was taxed L. 12, 13s. 4d., being a tenth of the estimated value. At the Reformation, the tax was L. 26, 13s. 4d. In 1587, the church was vested in the King, and returned to the Bishops of Galloway, by a grant from the King in 1689. On the abolition of Episcopacy, it was vested in the Crown.

*Land-owners.*—There are four principal heritors in this parish : The Right Honourable the Earl of Stair; Sir Andrew Agnew, Bart. of Lochnew; Colonel Vans Agnew, Esq. of Sheuchan; and the Rev. David Wilson, Stranraer. There are four other proprietors who pay a small part of the stipend. Sir Andrew Agnew is the principal heritor, and the only residing heritor.

*Modern Buildings.*—Lochnaw Castle is the only considerable building in the parish. It is built on an elevated hill, and appears to have been intended for a place of defence. Towards the south, traces of a deep fosse may still be seen, and on the north it is defended by a lake. A fine new church was built in 1828, which contains about 800 people.

### III.—POPULATION.

Population in 1801,	-	1329
1811,	-	1705
1821,	-	2332
1831,	-	2636

The number of persons of both sexes in Hillhead is 328, and in Clayhole, 462; both of which places form a part of the town of Stranraer, but are situated in this parish, and are included in its census.

The yearly average number of baptisms is about	60
deaths, between	30 and 40
marriages, about	15
The number of inhabited houses,	448
houses uninhabited or building,	32
The number of families, is	539
chiefly employed in agriculture,	239
trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	159

There are three fatuous males, and one fatuous female in the parish; and two persons dumb.

The number of illegitimate births during last three years, 5.

*Character of the People.*—The people in general live in a very comfortable manner, and have of late improved much both in language and manners. They have a strong sense of religion, and their conduct becomes their profession.

### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture and Rural Economy.*—It is impossible to say what number of acres are under tillage, as the land has not been measured. It may, however, be stated, that a very considerable quantity of land has of late years been under tillage, which before was never cultivated. When that coarse land is limed and laid under summer fallow, eight or ten seeds are generally produced. There



are very considerable tracts of land wholly in pasture, and very little probability that these will ever reward the farmer by tillage.

*Rent of Land.*—There are no grounds in undivided common in the parish, but the whole is laid out in farms. Some of these rent at L. 200 Sterling per annum, and upwards. The rent of some parts of the parish per acre is as high as L. 3 per annum; and L. 2 per acre is common. Farms let on a lease of nineteen years may average about L. 1 per acre. The common rate for grazing a cow or ox for the year is about L. 3, 10s.; a ewe, 5s.

*Wages.*—The common rate for a farm-servant is L. 10 per annum with victuals; a maid-servant L. 4, 4s.; meal per stone may be said to average 2s. 6d. per stone, potatoes 10d. per bushel; a mason or carpenter 2s. per day with victuals.

*Live-Stock.*—The breed of cattle being Galloways, they are well known and much sought after. Large droves are annually sent to England, which bring fair prices. The sheep are various; the Cheviot, the black-faced and various mixed breeds,—all of which reward the farmer, perhaps, better than black-cattle.

The general duration of leases is nineteen years, but there are some life tacks. The farm-houses are all good, and well adapted for their respective purposes; and the fences have, of late years, been greatly improved, and add very much to the beauty of the country.

*Produce.*—There are raised in the parish about 4000 Galloway bolls of oats, average value about L. 6000. Wheat has been of late cultivated; but what the real amount is cannot be ascertained; average price per bushel, 6s. There are raised about 2000 bolls of potatoes annually; average price about 13s. 4d.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Town.*—No market-town in the parish, but one in Stranraer, which is in the neighbourhood. The post-office is in Stranraer.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church, built in 1828, stands in a very convenient situation for the parishioners, and is about eight miles from the farthest extremities of the parish, and affords accommodation for 800 sitters. No free sittings.

The manse was built in 1811. The glebe contains nearly 20 acres; value about L. 30 annually. The stipend is the minimum. The only other place of worship in the parish is a parochial

preaching station in the suburb adjoining to Stranraer, where a district church is about to be erected. The church is well attended, and the number of communicants about 400. The church collections and other donations average about L. 40 annually.

The number of families attending the Established Church is 411; of families attending chapels of Dissenters or Seceders, 111; of Roman Catholic families, 17.

*Education.*—There are, at present, four schools in the parish, the parochial and three private. The parochial schoolmaster has the minimum salary, a house and garden, and the school fees,—the amount of which I cannot ascertain. There are no children in the parish so distant but they may attend some of the schools; and there are none belonging to the parish who cannot both read and write, as the parents, in general, seem anxious to have their children educated. About 200 children attend the Sabbath evening schools.

*Library.*—There is a parochial library, which contains nearly 400 volumes, and the people have a taste for reading.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The average number of poor receiving aid is about 60, eleven of whom receive on an average per annum, L. 6. The rest of the paupers receive parochial aid from the church collections, which amount to betwixt L. 50 and L. 60. There are no legal assessments: but contributions are voluntarily made by the heritors. The poor have also the interest of L. 200 left by the late Earl of Stair. The greater part of the poor, being Irish, are very frequent and importunate in their demands.

*Inns.*—There are six inns or ale-houses in the parish.

*Fuel.*—Both coal and turf are used as fuel in the parish. A cart load of turf costs 2s.; coals, 15s. per ton.

*February 1839.*

# PARISH OF PORTPATRICK.

PRESBYTERY OF STRANRAER, SYNOD OF GALLOWAY.

THE REV. ANDREW URQUHART, A. M. MINISTER.

---

## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name of the Parish.*—THE lands which at present constitute the parish of Portpatrick were formerly called the Black Quarter of the Inch, and till 1628, formed a part of the parish of Inch, having pertained to the ancient Abbacy of Saulset or Soulseat. For some time before and after this date, the harbour and adjoining village were very commonly called Portmontgomery, in honour of the Montgomeries, Lords of Ardes in Ireland, who were the proprietors for a considerable period. But when the parish was erected, it received the ancient name of the harbour, which it has ever since retained, and which has completely superseded the name of Portmontgomery. A marvellous story used to be told here of the famous Irish Saint Patrick having crossed the channel at a single stride, and the mark of his foot was shown on a rock, that has been removed in the operations connected with the construction of the present harbour. Whether this superstition is of Scotch or Irish origin does not appear; but it is probably connected with some historical fact, and with the origin of the name Portpatrick. Another story, undoubtedly Irish, bears that St Patrick, having been beheaded somewhere north of Glenap, took his head under his arm, and walked to Portpatrick, where, being unable to find a boat, he took his head in his teeth and swam across to Ireland.

*Boundaries.*—The parish occupies about four miles of the coast of the Irish Channel, rather nearer the northern than the southern extremity of the peninsula, which, extending from north north-west to south south-east, about 28 miles in length, and  $5\frac{1}{2}$  in its greatest breadth, and containing the parishes of Kirkcolm, Leswalt, Portpatrick, Stonykirk, and Kirkmaiden, is joined to the mainland,

WIGTON.

I

a little northward of its middle, by an isthmus 6 miles in breadth, formed by Loch-Ryan on the north, and the Bay of Luce on the south. Towards this isthmus, the parish of Portpatrick stretches about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles from its western shore. It contains about 18 square miles, and exhibits an outline of four sides, of which that towards the east is nearly parallel to the opposite side, bounded by the sea on the west. The only natural boundary between this and the adjoining parishes is a small stream called the Piltantou burn, separating it on the east from the parishes of Leswalt and Inch. It is separated from Leswalt on the north-west, and from Stonykirk on the south-east, by stone dikes, ditches, and other enclosures of the boundary farms.

*Topographical Appearances, &c.*—The surface of the whole parish is elevated. From the coast to the distance of about three miles, where it reaches its greatest elevation, it is irregularly undulated, exhibiting almost no entirely level ground, except in a few places where there is peat moss, the subsoil of which has probably the same slopes as the adjacent hills. The slopes are generally gradual, and in few places are so steep as to hinder the use of the plough: but on many of them, especially the more elevated, the rock frequently shows itself uncovered. The hills are mostly flat. Some of them have assumed a form approaching to conical. The higher and more remarkable ones are called the Fells of the farms to which they respectively belong, with the exception of one towards the south-east of the parish, which is called Cairnpat, and sometimes Cairnpiot. This hill is the highest in the whole peninsula. Here the eastern part of the parish may be seen, sloping down rapidly to the Piltanton burn, with a surface generally irregular, and towards the north exceedingly rough and broken with the projecting rock. From the summit of the hill, in clear weather, we may command an extensive prospect on all sides. Northward our view extends to the hills and mountains of Argyleshire and of Arran. The majestic blue rocks of Ailsa appear surrounded by the sea between them and the nearer view of the beautiful Loch-Ryan, which opens towards them between the bold hills of its eastern shore and the more gently sloping fields of Kirkcolm, and Leswalt, and sends back its quiet waves to the level shores of Stranraer. Turning eastward, our eye is caught by the distant blue mountains of Kirkcudbright, seen over the wild but less elevated country beyond Glenluce, and then descends on the almost level plain, about five

miles in breadth, and stretching six miles in length between Loch-Ryan and the wide open Bay of Luce. This tract of country is beautified by stripes and masses of plantation, chiefly belonging to the Earl of Stair. It is enlivened by the near view of Stranraer, immediately under our left, at the nearest angle of Loch-Ryan,—by a peep of Castle Kennedy and its lakes, about a mile inland from the more remote angle,—by the small village of Lochans, immediately below,—and by the parish church of Stonykirk, near to the bay of Luce, and seen over the plantations of Garthland to our right. Whether the English coast of Cumberland can be seen under a clear sky in the horizon beyond the Bay of Luce is doubtful; but several curious black rocks rise distinctly from the sea in the distance. To the right, the southern limit of the peninsula stretches out from below us, in a long narrow but hilly stripe to the Mull of Galloway, over which, and extending to the east and west of it, the high mountains of the Isle of Man appear. As we continue our survey towards the right and look westward, the very beautiful panorama is completed by the Irish Channel, with the Irish coast seen extending for seventy miles on the farther side, and varied by the Mourne mountains to the south, by the lower lying lands of Downshire, and the town of Donaghadee right opposite to us, and by the bold continuous mass of the Antrim hills, stretching to the north. The fore-ground of this view is the wildest part of Portpatrick parish. The high ground, which dips abruptly close to the shore, conceals the harbour and the town. Any one, who desires to obtain a correct idea of the geography of the parish, and of the Rhins of Galloway, and, at the same time, to enjoy a pleasant prospect, ought not to omit, when the weather is clear, to visit the top of Cairnpat, which is not half a mile from the turnpike road leading from Portpatrick to Stranraer.

*The Coast, &c.*—Along the whole line of sea coast included in this parish, rugged rocks and cliffs (commonly called *heughs*,) rise abruptly from deep water, and are, in some places, perpendicular to the height of 130 feet. Down the less precipitous of these, very young children often scramble to perilous fishing *seats*, which they select according to the time of the tide, and which have been long known by names, such as Slogan a glassin, Greggary, Eilena garroch, Catevannan, Catelig, Ringwee, Eilafitz, Slogan a baa, &c. In front of the cliffs, and opening in deep water, are several caves or vaulted fissures, but of no great extent, in which wild

pigeons, jackdaws, &c. build their nests. There is no beach except in four or five small bays, which are accessible from the land, the hills sloping back from them. In one of these, which is very rocky, and dangerous for shipwrecks, and is named Morroch Bay, the southern boundary of the parish meets the sea : and the northern boundary terminates in another, called Killantringan Bay, which is sandy, and enclosed by beautiful and bold green hills. The bay in which is the harbour of Portpatrick is nearly equally distant from both of these. High cliffs approach close to it on both sides, and, receding from the shore, are lost in steep hills of earth. These, gradually approaching towards each other, enclose the space on which the town is built, and at length form the banks of a small stream, along which the turnpike road leads by a moderate ascent towards Stranraer. Along the line of this road the newest street extends for about 350 yards down to the harbour, opening nearly on the centre of the basin, and passing on its right the church, manse, and church-yard. Another street, nearly equally divided by the former, and built with a slight curve, looks on the harbour. A few other small streets fill up the angles formed by these. The whole appearance of the place, when it is viewed from the heights on the south side, or from the sea, suggests the idea of a town built in a large quarry ; a considerable space of ground on the north side being occupied as a hewing field for the harbour works, and at present covered with enormous blocks of stone. About a quarter of a mile to the south of the harbour, and seen from the projecting pier head, are the ruins of the old Castle of Dunskey, situated on the summit of the rocky steep, about 90 or 100 feet above the level of the sea. A deep chasm renders the castle nearly inaccessible on the side nearest the harbour. On the opposite side the rock is quite perpendicular, and overlooks a small bay, called the Castle Bay. At the base of the rock on this side, and directly under the castle, is a cave, accessible at half-tide, the dark rugged entrance of which adds to the wildness of the imposing cliff crested by the ruins. About the same distance to the north of the harbour, are two small bays separated by a small promontory of table-land, and remarkable for the difference of their strand : for though they are so close that it might be supposed the tide would alternately wash the contents of the one into the other, the one, nearest Portpatrick, called Portmurray, contains only pure yellow sand, whence it is called also the Sandy Bay, or

the Sand-eel-Bay, whilst the other, called Port Kale, contains only coarse gravel, the debris of the neighbouring rocks, which are blue whinstone. In the rocky side of the sandy bay, beyond the reach of the tide, is a cave obscurely reported to have been the residence of a hermit or monk. Adjoining to it is a smaller cave, over the entrance of which a small rill constantly pours itself. If the indulgence of bathing had been permitted to the hermit, he might here have enjoyed the benefit of a shower-bath with a dressing room, besides the excellent plunge bath in the bay. The banks of a small stream which enters the other bay form a small glen, the most picturesque in Galloway, through which walks, very tastefully cut, lead past a very pretty wild waterfall, and connect the two bays with the present mansion-house of Dunskey, situated about a mile distant on the height.

*Meteorology.*—The range of the thermometer is less by several degrees in the town than in the higher grounds; and the temperature of the parish, generally, is reckoned to be neither so hot in summer, nor so cold in winter, as that of the inland parishes; but no accurate register is kept either of the barometer or thermometer.

Occasionally dense fogs cover the channel of the coast, especially in the months of May and September or October. They usually come from the sea with the south-west wind, and seldom last above a few hours at most; frequently not more than a quarter of an hour.

The prevailing winds vary from south to west. Those which raise the heaviest seas are from the south-west. It is considered a favourable sign of the weather, when the light breezes of summer change during the day, followed by the sun.

The climate is generally moist; and hence cold is often felt in a greater degree than is indicated by the thermometer. Upon the whole, it is a healthful climate; if we may judge from the robustness of the population, notwithstanding poor living and much exposure to the weather. But rheumatism, dyspepsia, consumption, fevers, and cancers are not unfrequent. Vegetation is slow in the early spring, but rapid in summer, so that the harvests are usually completed about the middle of October. But in November, the young shoots of trees are often found unprepared for the storms which bedew them with spray from the sea, and cause them to die from the top to a considerable length down.

*Hydrography.*—The sea, receiving but a scanty tribute of fresh water from the narrow peninsula, is very salt all along the shore. The depth close to the rocks is from five to six fathoms. Opposite Old Dunskey Castle, a bank of clay and gravel runs out for about three miles into the channel. On this bank, near the extremity, the depth of water is from 25 to 30 fathoms, whilst a mile north and south of this it is 50 fathoms. The deepest part of the channel opposite to Portpatrick is between 6 and 7 miles from the Scotch coast. From the greatest depth, (about 90 fathoms,) the water shoals gradually towards the coast of Ireland. According to the tide-table in the New Edinburgh Almanack, the tides at Portpatrick are 3 hours and 20 minutes later than at Leith. They are reckoned about an hour earlier than at Stranraer. But near the shore they are from an hour to an hour and a half earlier than a mile off, and they are generally reckoned an hour later than at the opposite port of Donaghadee. Spring-tides rise from 14 to 17 feet, and neap-tides from 8 to 11 feet. The currents near the shore often run more than 3 miles an hour. South-east of the Copland Island, near the Irish coast, there are strong and ever-varying currents, on which the most experienced fishermen cannot calculate with certainty, and which they cannot explain. It is to this place that the Statistical Account of 1791, thus refers: “ Within three or four miles of the Irish shore, when the flood returns, there is a regular current, which sets off strongly for the Mull of Galloway. It runs at the rate of seven knots an hour, and is so forcible, that when the wind opposes it, it exhibits for a great way the appearance of breakers. It is called the *Race of Strangers*, and is a very curious spectacle.”

On the south side of the town, there is a spring of strong chalybeate water, which flows at all seasons in a small but regular stream from the rock. It is much esteemed by the people for its medicinal virtue. There is no natural lake in the parish: but one of four acres in extent has been recently formed north of the Fell, which rises behind the mansion-house of Dunskey. This artificial lake has been stocked with trout, chiefly from a small stream in the parish called Craigoch-burn. It is of an irregular form. The banks are quite bare, but are being tastefully planted by the proprietor, by whom a carriage drive has also been lately formed along the margin and leading from the house with a wide sweep round the hill. This carriage drive, as it passes round the west side of the hill, crosses the walks leading from the mansion house



to the glen formerly mentioned, with its waterfall. This waterfall is formed by a small stream called Auchtreinatane burn. When this stream is swollen with rains, it pours a copious torrent over rugged rocks into a narrow ravine, about 50 or 60 feet deep, whence it flows with a peaceful current for a quarter of a mile along the bottom of the glen, which opens on Port Kale Bay. The scenery about this cascade and from it to the sea is exceedingly fine. The rugged rocks near the waterfall are enriched with furze and heath, or overrun with ivy and honeysuckle; and the boldly sloping sides of the glen are well covered with thriving wood.

The streams in this parish are all very small and rapid. They are generally named from the principal farms through which they pass. Their whole length lies within the parish, with the exception of the Piltanton-burn, forming the eastern boundary of the parish, and running thence for about six miles into the Bay of Luce.

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—It is impossible to say what is the general direction and dip of the strata of rock on the coast. In the cliffs north of the harbour, it may be said to be most commonly north-west, and to the south of the harbour south-east. In general the strata are very much inclined to the plane of the horizon, and in some cases almost perpendicular. All the rocks in this parish are understood to belong to the transition class. They become more slaty towards the southern boundary, but not so much so as on adjoining coast of Stonykirk parish, from which slates have been cut for the roofing of houses. On the strand of a small bay, near the northern boundary, a stratum almost perpendicular shows itself, composed of a transition rock, No. 1, \* with frequently intersecting small veins of No. 1, *a*, calcspar. The substance of the ordinary strata along the coast is represented by No. 2, a variety of greywacke, strata of which, varying from one to five or six feet, frequently alternate with others of nearly the same substance, but thin and of a more slaty appearance.

In the Morroch Bay, at the southern boundary of the parish, the following strata, of from 20 to 30 feet in thickness, and nearly perpendicular, but dipping towards the south-east, succeed one another from north to south, in the order of the numbers, and separated by strata of greywacke, No. 2, about the same thickness; No. 3, greywacke slate; No. 4, greywacke; No. 5, transition

\* The numbers refer to the collection of specimens in our possession.

clay slate ; No. 6, coarse alum slate ; No. 7, coarse alum slate ; No. 8, decomposed greywacke ; No. 9, Lydian stone ; No. 10, coarse alum slate ; No. 11, clay slate of various tints, as greenish-grey, purple, and reddish-brown. Beside No. 6, on the shore, is a fixed mass of No. 6 *a*, which appears to be decayed greywacke, in Nos. 7, and 10, masses of No. 7 *a*, which is common iron pyrites, about the size of a man's hand, are frequently found. Alongside of No. 11, and at the height of 100 feet up in the face of the cliff, there is a stratum of No. 11 *a*, of a decomposed rock. Nodules of coarse jasper and agate, quartz in nodules and layers, and thin veins of carbonate of lime, are found not unfrequently in the rocks. *No organic remains* have hitherto been found.

The soil in the parish is in some places pure brown earth, generally with a considerable proportion of sand ; in other places it is black, being chiefly reduced moss, with a small proportion of the clay of the subsoil. Where it does not rest on the rock, it lies generally either on layers of gravel apparently laid by water, or on a light brown clay, or on reddish till.

There are no rolled stones in the parish, except *a few* of the same substance with the variety of greywacke, No. 2.

There is a layer of clay-slate near the Piltanton burn, on the eastern boundary, such as soft slate pencils are made of.

*Zoology.*—It is believed that there is little remarkable in the zoology of this parish.

The seal (*Phoca vitulina*) has sometimes been seen on the rocks of the shore, and the otter (*Lutra vulgaris*) frequently. The brown rat (*Mus decumanus*), which infests almost every house and stack-yard in the parish, abounds in the rocks along the shore, and is believed to feed there on shell-fish and the carrion cast up by the sea. The black rat (*Mus rattus*) is not found in the parish. Among the loose rocks, about the roots of furze, and in stone dikes everywhere, but especially near the coast, may be found abundantly the hedge-hog, (*Erinaceus Europæus*), the weasel (*Mustela vulgaris*), the ermine (*Mustela erminea*), and the fourmart (*Mustela putorius*.) The gamekeeper at Dunskey thinks there are two distinct species called weasel here, the one much smaller than the other, and seldom attacking animals larger than mice or small birds ; the other attacks rabbits. Foxes have been killed in the parish, but none have been known to breed in it for at least three years past. Hares are not so abundant as in many other districts. A young one was found last year nearly quite

white. Rabbits abound within a mile of the coast. The grey rabbit is the most common, but the black are numerous. Some have been killed partly grey and partly white, and one was recently killed partly black and partly white.

The progress of cultivation has greatly diminished the numbers of the red grouse (*Lagopus Scoticus.*) Of the black-cock (*Tetrao tetrix*) a few are killed every year by the regular sportsmen, and many more, it is to be feared, by the poacher. The common partridge (*Perdix cinerea*) is rather thinly distributed. The game-keeper at Dunskey has remarked that, during the absence of the mother from the nest, the damp seems to affect the eggs, so as frequently to cause induration of the membrane which lines the interior surface of the shell, so that the young birds cannot escape and die. The quail (*Coturnix vulgaris*) is an occasional visitant from Ireland. The pheasant (*Phasianus Colchicus*) has been introduced, and thrives tolerably well in the more sheltered plantations around Dunskey. They have been found both young and old, nearly pure white. The heron (*Ardea cinerea*) frequents the coast, but does not breed here. The smaller birds that engage the interest of the sportsman are the woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola,*) the common snipe (*Scolopax gallinago*), and the jack-snipe (*Scolopax gallinula.*) The starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) appears in considerable numbers once a year, and sometimes twice, and has been known to breed. Whilst the ring-dove (*Columba Palumbus*) is frequently met with in the woods, the rock-dove (*C. aenas*) abounds among the cliffs and in the caves of the shore, along with the hooded-crow (*Corvus cornix,*) and the jack-daw (*C. monedula.*) A bird frequent among the jackdaws, which the game-keeper has not seen elsewhere, is described by him as rather larger, with very fine jet-black plumage, bill and legs red, building its nest in dry holes in rocks and caves. The peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) breeds in the neighbourhood, and may be seen in the parish during the whole year. The wind-hover or stannel (*F. tinnunculus*) breeds, and is seen plentifully the whole year. The merlin (*F. Æsalon*) breeds, and is also plentiful at all seasons. The kite (*Milvus vulgaris*) may be seen sometimes in the winter, but is not common. The hen-harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) appears at the end of the harvest but rarely. The sparrow-hawk (*Accipiter fringillarius*) breeds and is very common everywhere. The short horn owl (*Otus brachyotus*) breeds, and may be found at all seasons, but not plentifully. The barn-owl (*Aluco*

*flammeus*) is not rare, and remains all year. The European goat-sucker (*Caprimulgus Europæus*) breeds, but is rare, and does not remain during the year. The raven, carrion-crow, blackbird, common thrush, and magpie, are found much as in other districts, at all seasons, the missel-thrush in harvest, and the rook not so common. The common lapwing and the green plover (*Charadrius pluvialis*) are not rare. In the woods the common creeper (*Certhia familiaris*) will frequently attract notice. Of other small birds the variety is considerable, but the numbers are not great.

*Ichthyology*.—The common trout, of rather small size, but very superior flavour, and the common eel, are the only fish that inhabit the small streams. Of the sea-fish, those commonly brought ashore by the fishermen are the common cod, ling, conger-eel, pollack, (here called lythe,) coal-fish (here called blockin,) grey and red gurnard, the three-bearded gade, flounder, thorn-back, skate, turbot occasionally, and the common dog-fish, abundantly used as bait for the baskets in which the buckies (*Buccinum undatum*) are caught for baiting the cod lines. Whittings are rarely taken, and the haddock which, in the remembrance of the present fishermen, was most abundant, seems to have abandoned the coast entirely. The cook (*Labrus coquus*) and the saury (*Scomberesox saurus*) have been caught. The following are given as inhabitants of this shore on the authority of W. Thompson, Esq. of Belfast, who has specimens in his possession: *Liparis Montagu*, *Leptocephalus Morrisii*, and the doubly-spotted goby, (*Gobius bipunctatus*, of Yarrell.)

*Reptiles*.—The lizard (*Lacerta agilis*,) and the blind-worm (*Anguis fragilis*) are not uncommon in this parish. The common viper or adder (*Vipera communis*) abounds in some of the uncultivated parts of the parish. There is no scarcity of the different sorts of the eft (*Triton*.) The common frog and the toad are here much in the same abundance as in other districts not remarkably swampy.

The glow-worm is found plentifully in the glen north of the town. Of eight species of *Helix* found in this parish, the *H. trochilus* may be remarked as rare, and the *H. nemoralis* and *H. aspersa* as unusually abundant near the coast. The latter used to be gathered in large baskets as bait for *cod-fish* before recourse was had to the shell-fish so abundantly supplied by the channel. Along the coast the *Pupa muscorum*, *Balea perversa*, and *Clausilia perversa*, are also very abundant.

The *Cingula pulla* may be easily found among the abundant *Cingula parva* at the roots of the small Algæ north of the harbour. The *Pholas candida* and *Pholas crispata* may be dug up from the clay in the harbour, and the *Tellina fubula* from the sand. Beams of wood used in the harbour works recently exhibited remarkable ravages of the *Teredo navalis*. The baskets used by the fishermen for capturing the *Buccinum undatum* frequently contain the *Fusus antiquus*, *Fusus corneus*, *Triton erinaceus*, *Nasa reticulata*, *Nasa incrassata*, and sometimes *Rostellaria pes-pelecani*, *Trochus magus*, *Fusus nebula*, *Turritella terebra*, *Scalaria clathratulus*, *Cypræa Europæa*, *Natica glaucina*, and *Terebra reticulata*. Entangled with the baskets adhering to other shells may also be found *Modiola vulgaris*, *Capulus Hungaricus*, *Emarginula fissura*, *Chiton ruber* and *Chiton fascicularis*. In the roots of the larger Algæ on the coast the *Arca lactea* has been found, and the *Hiatella arctica* frequently. On the shore of Killantringan Bay, cast up by the sea, the *Pectunculus pilosus*, *Pectunculus decussatus*, *Nucula nuclea*, *Venus cassina*, and *Venus fasciata* have been gathered, as also the *Lima fragilis*. In the same bay, on the rocks and stones, the *Chiton lævigatus* may be found often of a very large size. One lately found measured 13 lines in length, and 7 in breadth. Oysters have been dredged off Old Dunskey Castle, and among them the *Cyprina Islandica*.

Much attention is paid in this parish to the rearing of the black hornless breed of cattle peculiar to Galloway.

*Botany*.—No very careful survey is known to have been made of the vegetable productions of this parish. There seems to be a rich field for the study of the Cryptogamic genera. The ferns, *Ophioglossum vulgatum* and *Botrychium lunaria*, are found on the high ground north of the town. Of the phænogamous plants that abound along the coast, the following may be mentioned; *Statice armeria*, *Scilla verna*, *Cistus helianthemum*, *Pyrethrum maritimum*, *Anthyllis vulneraria*, *Geranium sanguineum*, *Gentiana officinalis*, *Erithræa littoralis*, *Daucus carota*, *Hypericum pulchrum*, and *Hypericum humifusum*. The *Crithmum maritimum*, *Inula crithmoides*, and *Carlina vulgaris*, are found on the rocks of the shore, near the southern boundary of the parish. The *Coronopus Ruellii* grows abundantly near the town. The *Adoxa moschatellina* and the *Echium vulgare* are found in the parish, as also occasionally a pure white variety of the *Hyacinthus non-scriptus*. The *Vaccinium oxycoccus* abounds in the boggy moor to the north-west.

Of forest trees, the elm, sycamore, and ash, are the favourites of the climate. The pinaster, spruce, and silver firs, and the oak, thrive tolerably well. The attempt to cultivate Scotch fir and larch has proved a decided failure.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

There seems to be very little in the civil history of Portpatrick which, in a brief account like the present, is worthy of notice apart from the general History of Galloway, of which a brief review may be found in Chalmers' *Caledonia*, Vol. iii., with frequent reference to authorities and to sources of more ample information. Some manuscripts connected with the history of the family of Montgomery were published at Belfast in 1830, in one volume 12mo. There is a large plan of the property of the principal heritor in his house at Dunskey, exhibiting the agricultural divisions of about two-thirds of the surface of the whole parish, with the measurement of each field in acres.

Portpatrick was long celebrated as the *Gretna Green* for Ireland. Parties who could not obtain ecclesiastical sanction of their marriage on the other side of the channel, with all the expedition or secrecy which the opposition of relatives or other circumstances rendered desirable, found their way to this place, and on satisfying the minister that there was no legal objection to their union, were admitted to the benefit of proclamation in the parish church immediately on their arrival, and were married without delay. These marriages are registered in the records of the kirk-session, and attested by the minister and the witnesses. The fees exacted on these occasions varied according to the rank and ability of the parties. The lowest sum that was accepted at one time was L. 5, but it was latterly raised to L. 10, payable to the minister, and L. 1 to the session-clerk. This practice was abandoned in 1826, in consequence of the interference of the church courts; but during the preceding period of about fifty years, the records of these marriages exhibits the names of 198 gentlemen, 15 officers of the army or navy, and 13 noblemen.

*Eminent Characters.*—The late Sir James Hunter Blair, Bart. was sometime Lord Provost of Edinburgh, and its representative in Parliament. He was distinguished for the activity and intelligence with which he engaged in the general affairs of Scotland as a Member of Parliament, and for the influence which he had in promoting the improvement of the city over which he presided as a magistrate. At the same time he was not forgetful of the inte-

rests of Portpatrick, of which he was the principal heritor, but contributed much to its improvement and prosperity. His son, Colonel James Hunter Blair, for a considerable time Member of Parliament for Wigtonshire, was a man of many personal accomplishments, highly esteemed and influential in the affairs of the county, and devoted to his parliamentary duties, to which it is believed that he sacrificed his health and his life. His brother and successor in the estate of Dunskey, the late Forbes Hunter Blair, Esq. was induced, by the solicitation of a great number of the most respectable citizens of Edinburgh, to become a candidate, on the Conservative interest, for the parliamentary representation of that city, in the first election after the passing of the Reform Bill. The personal fatigue which he underwent in this election hastened his death, which happened soon after, to the deep regret of men of all parties in politics to whom he was known. Active and intelligent, disinterested, sternly conscientious and high-minded, yet most generous, and devoted to the promotion of the welfare of the poorest, his residence in the parish of Portpatrick was productive of much good to it in many ways, and his name merits a prominent place in a statistical account of it. To write the character of his excellent successor, while living, would not be consistent with delicacy. The late minister, the Rev. John Mackenzie, D. D., one of his Majesty's Chaplains for Scotland, who died in 1836, in the ninety-third year of his age, and sixty-third of his ministry, and was understood to be the oldest minister then in the Church of Scotland, was long admitted to a prominent place in the debates of the General Assembly. He was an early, and to the last the intimate friend and correspondent of Dr Gillies, the historian, and he has left an octavo volume of sermons, and a smaller volume of poetry, entitled "Ocean, Stella, and other Poems," which reached a second edition in 1830.

*Parochial Registers.*—The only parochial registers are those kept by the session-clerk, in which, however, there are several minutes of the meetings of heritors and kirk-session. Besides the volume now in use, the records of the kirk-session consist of four volumes; the first extending from 7th May 1727 to 23d November 1766, has been regularly kept: 341 small quarto pages are devoted to the minutes of kirk-session, and 88 to the registry of marriages and births. On the last page is an oath of purgation from the sin of fornication, entitled "A copy of the Long Oath," the language of which is almost too horrible to be uttered. It appears from these minutes that much attention was paid by the

kirk-session during the period to which they refer, to the restraining and correction of Sabbath-breakers. The second volume (a folio) consists of 270 pages, of which 56 are occupied with minutes of kirk-session, extending from 31st October 1773 to 20th November 1791. The remainder of the volume is occupied with the registrations of marriages, births, and a few burials. The third volume (a folio) has 52 pages near the middle devoted to minutes of kirk-session from 29th October 1797 to 10th May 1818. The remainder of it is occupied with registry of marriages, births, and the sale of burying-ground in the church-yard. The fourth volume (a folio) has 29 pages onward in the volume devoted to minutes of kirk-session, and of heritors and kirk-session from 8th November 1818 to 28th April 1833. The remaining pages are devoted to the registry of marriages and births, and are at present in use only for this purpose.

*Antiquities.*—Around the summit of the hill Cairnpat, at the distance of about seventy and eighty yards, the ruins of two circular stone walls may be seen, which in late years have been greatly reduced, for the sake of the stones, to be used in erecting fences in the neighbouring farms. These walls beyond a doubt must have been erected for the purposes of fortification. An urn, well-formed of baked clay, was dug out of a cairn on the farm of Craigoch, about twenty-five years ago, and it is now in the mansion house of Dunskey. Circular pieces, from two to three inches diameter, cut out of a black slate not found in the parish, are frequently dug up in the church-yard, along with rings, out of which these pieces seem to have been cut. Both of these are supposed by the people here to have been used at one time as money. An old kiln, such as those formerly used in Galloway for drying grain, may be seen near the farmhouse of Low Auchenrue. No trace now remains of the mansion-house of the Adairs of Kilbilt, but its site is well known to have been where the line of Colfin Glen would meet the present turnpike road. A chapel, dedicated to St Patrick, formerly stood either on the site of the present church or near to it, and was called Chapel Patrick. Two views of Old Dunskey Castle, exhibiting very nearly its present state, are given in the second volume of Grose's *Antiquities*, accompanied with a brief description. That antiquarian was probably mistaken when he concluded from the style of the building that it was not older than the middle of the sixteenth century. The suspicion which he intimates as to the accuracy of Simpson's account, that it belonged to the Lords of



Airds in Ireland, is certainly unfounded. The same Viscount of Airds, by whom the church of Portpatrick was erected in the years 1628 and 1629, is said, in the Montgomery manuscripts, p. 93, to have bought this castle, as well as Portpatrick town, from Sir Robert Adair of Kinhill, and to have put many convenient and handsome additions to it.

*Modern Buildings.*—The greater number of the houses in the town of Portpatrick are of very recent date. They are all built of the stone quarried from the neighbouring rocks, and are generally built substantially. The present mansion-house of Dunskey shows a stone in the wall with the inscription “Perfected 1706.” It received a large addition about eight years ago, in the time of the late proprietor, and has been greatly altered and improved by the present proprietor.

### III.—POPULATION.

Within the remembrance of persons still living, and who are upwards of ninety years of age, there were not more than ten or twelve houses where the town of Portpatrick now stands. The inhabitants of these houses probably did not exceed 100, whilst it appears that about the same time the population of the whole parish amounted to 551.

The following is an extract from the Statistical Account given to Sir John Sinclair in 1791; “The return to the inquiries made by Dr Webster regarding the population of the parish of Portpatrick about forty years ago was 551 souls. It has since considerably increased. It appears from an enumeration recently made, that there are in the country part of the parish 484, and in the town, 512 souls, so that the whole population amounts to 996, being an addition, in that space of time, of 445 souls.”

By the census taken in 1831, under direction of Parliament, the whole population amounted to 2239. The following note has been kept by the schoolmaster who made the return:

Houses.	Males.				Females.				Total.	
	Fami- lies.	above 20 yrs.	under 20 yrs.	above 20 yrs.	under 20 yrs.	Servants. Mal.	Servants. Fem.	Mal.	Fem.	
Country,	170	172	233	292	251	258	38	36	525	509
Town,	122	250	272	286	380	267	4	33	558	647
Whole Pa.	293	422	505	578	631	525	42	69	1083	1156

Since 1831, the population has decreased in consequence of the number of men having been reduced who were then employed in constructing the new harbour. At present it amounts to 1991, of whom there are in the town, 1010; in the country, 981.

	Town.	Country.	Whole Parish.
There are in the			
Natives of Ireland,	199	222	421
of England,	12	7	19
of Isle of Man,	1	1	2
of France,	0	1	1
of America,	1	1	2
of Wales,	1	0	1
of Scotland, but not of			
Portpatrick,	213	241	454
of Portpatrick,	583	508	1091
Families in which only one of the			
parents is a native of the parish,	62	29	91
Families in which both parents are			
natives of the parish,	24	12	36
The number of families chiefly employed in agriculture in 1831 was			56
in trade, manufactures, or handicraft,			90
other families,			274

As nearly as can be ascertained, the average number of births for the last seven years is 54; of marriages, 10. The number of deaths cannot be ascertained.

There have been about 4 illegitimate births in each of the last three years.\*

Table shewing the numbers of the population at different ages :

Age.	In Town.		In Country.		In whole Parish.		No. of persons in whole population under	
	Mal.	Fem.	Mal.	Fem.	Mal.	Fem.		
Under 6,	80	86	83	86	163	172	6 years,	335
Betw. 6 & 12,	88	66	82	74	165	140	12,	640
12 15,	37	43	49	36	86	79	15,	805
15 20,	40	52	45	62	85	114	20,	1004
20 30,	46	79	51	52	97	131	30,	1232
30 40,	52	63	49	63	101	126	40,	1459
40 50,	50	53	55	44	105	97	50,	1661
50 60,	42	54	29	32	71	86	60,	1818
60 70,	23	30	26	27	49	57	70,	1934
70 80,	9	14	13	12	22	26	80,	1972
80 90,	3	3	6	2	9	5	90,	1986
90 95,	1	1	1	2	2	3	95,	1991
	466	544	489	492	955	1036		

The principal heritor is the only man of independent fortune resident in the parish. There are six other families deriving from L. 200 to L. 400 each, from their official duties and other sources.

Of proprietors of land in the parish of the yearly value of upwards of L. 50 there are three, among whom all the land in the parish is divided in the proportion of 1026 $\frac{2}{3}$ , 346 $\frac{2}{3}$ , and 190, according to their valuation.

There are 25 unmarried men upwards of fifty years of age, of whom 6 have not been married, and 19 are widowers. There are 82 unmarried women upwards of 45 years of age, of whom 20 have

\* It is remarkable that, about twenty years ago, the birth of an illegitimate child in the parish was considered a very rare occurrence.

not been married, and 62 are widows. Of 317 men who have been married, 30 have been twice married, and 287 only once married; of 363 women, 21 have been twice married, and 342 only once married. Of married persons, male and female, who have had no children, there are 23 in the town, 8 in the country, 31 in the whole parish. Number of families in the town, 238; in the country, 182; in the whole parish, 420. The average number of individuals for each family is very nearly  $4\frac{1}{4}$  in the town,  $5\frac{5}{8}$  in the country, and  $4\frac{3}{4}$  in the whole parish. For the families in which all or some of the children reside with their parents, the average number of children of all ages thus residing is rather less than  $2\frac{1}{8}$  in the town, rather more than  $3\frac{5}{8}$  in the country, and rather less than  $2\frac{9}{16}$  in the whole parish.

There are 120 inhabited houses in the town, 177 in the country, and 297 in the whole parish; 4 uninhabited houses in the town, 2 in the country, and 6 in the whole parish. There are no houses being built at present. None have been built in the country for a year past, and none in the town for ten years past. The people are generally hardy and naturally robust. But, upon the whole, they do not seem to perform so much labour as the inhabitants of many other districts. This difference may be chiefly owing to irregular employment and poor living.

There are in the whole parish 4 persons insane, 9 fatuous, 4 blind, 4 deaf and dumb; and besides these, there are 2 persons, a man and his sister, he aged sixty-six, and she aged seventy-three, both of whom are at once blind, deaf and dumb. Both could once see, but have been blind for between 20 and 30 years. They can be made to understand by means of touch, what their friends find it necessary to communicate to them for their bodily comfort and personal safety. He can attend to the fire to supply it with fuel when it is required. She is remarkably particular as to her dress. Both can be made to understand when any one is present with whom they have formerly been acquainted; and when they are informed that the minister is present, they compose themselves, and assume a grave and serious aspect. This is especially the case with the woman.

*Language.*—English is spoken in this parish, with less of provincial accent and less mixture of Scotch than in the more central and populous districts of Scotland.

There are few games or regulated amusements followed, and none peculiar to the parish. Curling in the hard frosts of winter

is the favourite game. Quoits and hand-ball are occasionally resorted to at other seasons, but rarely by grown persons. Hand-ball and marbles are the only games in favour with the boys. The girls seem to have no games at all peculiar to themselves.

*Character and Habits of the People.*—The poorer class, constituting the majority of the population, are very far from being cleanly or tidy in their habits; but it is quite the reverse with those in better circumstances, especially in the town. The diet of the ordinary labourer is often very poor. The smallness of his wages, and still more his improvident habits, allow him but a rare supply and scanty proportion of animal food. Many, especially of the labourers resident in the town or in the country, and of the small cottars in the country, are miserably clothed, miserably fed, miserably lodged, and miserably provided with furniture in their dwellings. But these evils have undoubtedly, in most instances, a moral cause. For others, with precisely the same advantages, contrive to make themselves tolerably comfortable. The agricultural population are generally much poorer, and do not live so well as in the better cultivated and more populous districts of Scotland. Farmers, in circumstances of moderate comfort, do not use animal food above once in a day, and that not always.

The ordinary comforts and advantages of society may generally be enjoyed by the prudent and industrious. In the queries, to which this Statistical Account is an answer, it is asked whether “the people, on the whole, are contented with their situation and circumstances?” Here it is necessary to distinguish between two kinds of what is commonly called contentment. There is in the majority by far too much of that sort of contentment which consists in preferring the present condition to the exertion and prudent management by which it might be improved. But, as inseparable from this species of contentment, there is a lamentable deficiency of that just and thankful recognition of comforts and advantages enjoyed or attainable, which, mingling with a sense of the salutary discipline of unavoidable evils, constitutes true contentment. Although there is not so much of the restless and mischievous spirit of discontent openly displayed, as would be hailed by the unprincipled demagogue, enough may be observed to suggest and enforce the lesson, that, unless the hearts of men be imbued with the spirit of the Gospel, we shall look everywhere in vain for such contentment as is truly conducive to the well-being of society, or to its permanent security.

The people are generally characterized by intellect naturally vigorous, but uncultivated. They are capable of being excited to very great violence of feeling: and vindictive feelings usually find with them a free and instant expression. But withal, they display more external courtesy towards one another, and more respectful manners in addressing their superiors, than may be observed in the more populous districts. In common with the other inhabitants of Galloway they are distinguished by a ready and ungrudging hospitality. Among the crimes ordinarily falling under the cognizance of the civil magistrate, assaults, rioting and fighting on the public streets, are much to be complained of, but are not so frequent as at one time, when it used to be said at Donaghadee, "I'll not meddle with you just now; but stop till I get you at Portpatrick, where there is no law." Petty thefts are prevalent. They are often attributed to the bands of tinkers who encamp on the common on their way to and from Ireland; but these undoubtedly deserve but a small share of the blame. The facilities afforded by the wild coast for plundering the goods cast ashore in shipwrecks, have always presented a strong temptation. The desperate cupidity exhibited in recent cases by many, even with the grim spectacles of death before them, and the impossibility of detecting the numerous depredators, sufficiently prove that the tone of public morality on the question of "mine or thine" is not very high. Profane swearing is lamentably frequent; but probably not more so than in other parts of the country. If it be true, as has been said, that drunkenness prevails to a more than ordinary degree in Portpatrick, the assertion, which is probably incorrect, must, at all events, be confined to the town. And here the most favourable conclusion that observation will warrant is, that the habits of the people in this respect are, upon the whole, better than we find in other sea-ports, and that a great improvement has taken place of late years. The Sabbath is usually observed with outward quietness. Idleness and wandering are the principal forms of its desecration, if we overlook the national profanity of the sailing of the mail-packets, and the running of the mail-coaches, by which many well disposed men are laid under the necessity of labouring, and of absenting themselves frequently both from public and domestic religious duties. An observer of the peculiar character of the people would probably remark a natural susceptibility of solemn impressions, which, however, through ignorance and spiritual blindness, often degenerates into superstition,

consistent with various immoralities. If the experience of a few years of ministerial duty might justify the author of these pages in hazarding the opinion, he would say that those who know and love the Bible in this parish seem to draw from it a deeper tone of religious feeling than is generally to be remarked in the same class of men in several other districts with which he has been acquainted. The number of these, alas! bears but a small proportion to the whole population. Perhaps the following well ascertained statement respecting family worship, taken together with other facts to be stated under the heads of "*Ecclesiastical State*" and "*Education*," may illustrate the religious character of the population more satisfactorily than any mere general statement of opinion: Of the Protestant families in the whole parish, there are sixty in which there is family worship usually every day, and sixty-one in which it is usual to have family worship only on Sabbaths.

*Poaching* in game prevails to a considerable extent, and is not confined, as in most other parts of the country, to a few worthless and desperate characters. Small quantities of soap are frequently brought from Ireland and sold among the families in the parish by poor people. This seems to be the only remaining vestige of *smuggling*.

There is no regular *pawnbroker* nearer than Stranraer, and probably not very many persons from this parish have recourse to him. Those who would, have little to pawn.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture*.—The statements under this head are given with confidence on the authority of John Murdoch, Esq. J. P. factor to the principal heritor.

No. of acres, standard imperial measure which are either cultivated or occasionally in tillage is	6900
No. of acres which have never been cultivated, and which remain constantly waste, or in pasture,	2068
which might, with a profitable application of capital, be added to the cultivated land of the parish, whether that land were afterwards to be kept in occasional tillage, or in permanent pasture,	500
in a state of undivided common	12
under wood, all planted,	300

The kinds of trees which have been generally planted, are, oak, ash, sycamore, beech, elm, chestnut, larch, spruce and silver fir, and pinaster. The almost only wood in the parish is around Dunskey, the residence of the principal proprietor. It has been planted chiefly within the last thirty years. The annual thinning and pruning is conducted by experienced foresters under the di-

rection of the proprietor and his factor, according to the most approved method of the present day.

*Rent.*—The average rent of arable land in the parish is 10s. per imperial acre. The average rent of grazing is at the rate of L. 1, 10s. per ox or cow grazed, and at the rate of L. 5 per ewe or full-grown sheep pastured for the year.

*Wages.*—The rate of labour, winter and summer, for different kinds of farm-labourers, varies from 10d. to 1s. 6d. per day, and for country artisans, it is 2s. 6d. per day.

The price of the several kinds of raw produce, grain, &c. is that of the Glasgow and Liverpool markets, deducting the expense of carriage. The rates of mason, carpenter, and other mechanical work are also regulated by the more populous parts of Scotland.

*Live-Stock.*—The sheep, of which comparatively few are kept, are chiefly of the black-faced breed. The cattle are principally of the Galloway breed, to the improvement of which greater attention has been lately devoted by crossing with bulls of the same breed, selected from improved stocks of the neighbouring districts. The peculiar excellence of this breed consisting in the smallness of the bone, and the greater proportion of lean when the animals are thoroughly fattened, is well known in the London Smithfield market, where the Galloway *spayed* heifer sells at 1½d. per lb. higher than any other beef.

*Husbandry.*—The general character of the husbandry pursued, although not the best, is tolerably good, being alternate pasture and oats, with the intervention of a hoed green crop, chiefly potatoes in the drier soils. The general tendency, however, is to over-cropping. Draining and an undeviating rotation of crops are improvements of which the present husbandry of the parish is very susceptible.

The general duration of leases is nineteen years. In this respect they are favourable at once to the improvement of the soil and to the occupier, giving him a sufficient time for a return of outlay.

The farm-houses and buildings are, for the most part, pretty good; as are also the fences, which are chiefly of stone, or of sod with furze sown on the top. The latter makes a tolerably good fence when the furze is properly dressed.

Within the last twenty years, considerable improvements have been made by the occupiers generally, in reclaiming mossy and formerly waste lands, by paring and burning, and by a better system of cultivation, although in this last respect much remains

yet to be done. Within the same period, the principal proprietor has effected very striking improvements by extensive plantations, tastefully arranged for landscape effect, and by draining and laying down for permanent pasturage about 400 acres around his residence. The great extent of private gravel walks and well-dressed thorn hedges, although, strictly speaking, they do not come under the head of agriculture, may be mentioned here as remarkable improvements.

The chief obstacles to improvement are what may be supposed to have arisen from the want of improving leases as to farm-buildings, &c. and from the laws of entail, under which there is about one-third of the landward part of the parish.

There are no mines in the parish. Coal has been lately sought for, but in vain.

*Fisheries.*—Till the year 1813, there was no regular fishery at Portpatrick, except for the supply of the inhabitants. The fish caught were generally of small size, such as are still caught for the same purpose during the summer months near the shore, either with rods or hand-lines baited with limpets or crabs. From 1813 to 1821, about 20 boats and 100 men were employed in fishing herrings. Each boat used from 1200 to 1600 yards of net, and the average profit of each was about L. 80; the price of herrings varying from 30s. to 40s. per barrel. The average number of barrels of herrings caught by the Portpatrick boats during each of the above years must have been about 900. From six to eight of these boats fished with the Government bounty of L. 3 per ton, and averaged about twenty tons. The other boats employed were from five to eight tons. After the Government bounty was withdrawn, the fishery was abandoned as unprofitable: for, although the greater number of the boats employed had not enjoyed the bounty they did not put to sea till the bounty boats had discovered the shoals of herrings, and so were saved much expense. The greater number of herrings were caught between Portpatrick and Portnessock to the south, and at the distance of from two to three miles from the shore. The usual fishing season for the Portpatrick boats was from the beginning of June till the beginning of August. The herrings came from the north, and proceeded south to the Isle of Man, where the fishery began about the 10th of August. Besides the Portpatrick boats, many from other places fished on the coast, and 120 have been seen in the harbour at once. The want of



the bounty is the only reason assigned by the fishermen for no attempt being now made to resume this fishery.

Immediately after the herring fishery was abandoned, it was found that a profitable fishery of cod might be carried on during the five months, from the beginning of November to the beginning of April. This has continued ever since to be the only fishery carried on at Portpatrick. During last season, the fish were very abundant. Ten boats with three men, or two men and a boy in each, were employed; and each boat realized at an average about L. 20 of clear profit. The fish above 12 pounds were sold at an average of 9d. each during the season. The average weight of such fish as taken from the water was about 16 pounds. The largest were from 36 pounds to 40 pounds. The cod come from the north and proceed southward. It is the opinion of the fishermen, that they go round the south coast of Ireland, and return northward along the west coast. In the beginning of the fishing-season, they are caught in water about 30 fathoms deep, and towards the end of the season in water about 60 fathoms. They are supposed to seek the deeper water, in order to avoid the strong current, as they become weaker from the approach of the time of spawning, which is in April and May. The distance of the cod fishing ground from the shore is from two to three miles. The lines used in fishing are from 800 to 1000 fathoms, having hooks along the whole length, at the distance of two fathoms, and are stretched along the bottom by large stones let down at each end, and fastened by a cord to a buoy on the surface of the water. The bait used is the shell-fish, *Buccinum undatum*, called here buckie, which is caught for the purpose in baskets containing pieces of fish, which are let down in about 10 fathoms water about a quarter of a mile off from the harbour or the old castle, and are drawn up daily to be emptied of the shell-fish which have crept into them to feed on the dead fish. Each shell-fish serves to bait two hooks; so that reckoning the number of hooks used by all the boats at 4500, about 2250 of these large shell-fish must be destroyed every time the lines are shot, and probably not fewer than 70,000 every year. Yet the supply chiefly obtained from a space of no great extent seems to be even more abundant than ever.

*Produce.*—The average gross amount of raw produce raised in the parish, as nearly as that can be ascertained, has been calculated as follows, by the gentleman to whose authority the facts stated under the head of *Agriculture* have been referred.

Produce of grain of all kinds cultivated for the food of man and of the domestic animals,	L. 6500
potatoes, turnips, and other plants cultivated in the fields for food,	950
hay, meadow and cultivated,	350
flax,	50
land in pasture, rating it at 30s. per cow, or full-grown ox grazed, or that may be grazed for the season; at 5s. per ewe, or full-grown sheep, pastured, or that may be pastured for the year,	1950
gardens and orchard,	25
the annual thinning of plantations,	25
the cod fishery,	200

Total yearly value of raw produce, L. 9250

*Manufactures.*—There are no manufactures for the general market in this parish, except the embroidering of muslin with the needle by women. Twelve weavers, called customer weavers, are employed in working up the produce of the domestic spinning-wheels for the use of the families by whom they are employed.

*Navigation.*—There are, at present, only four sail-vessels belonging to this port. Of these one is of 80 tons burthen, two of 40 tons, and one of 20 tons. All of these are frequently employed in bringing coals for the use of the steam-packets, or of the inhabitants. The largest sometimes also brings stone for the harbour-works, and the others sometimes import lime for the purposes of agriculture. About fifty years ago, six vessels of the average of 60 tons belonged to the people and the harbour of Portpatrick, and were employed in the coasting-trade, chiefly in the importation of cattle from Ireland. It appears from the Statistical Account of 1791, that, sometime previous to that date, a company of shipwrights had been formed under the auspices of Sir James Hunter Blair. But only four vessels of any considerable size seem to have been built here. The last of these was built in 1790.

Besides the sail-vessels belonging to this harbour, two steamers are stationed here by the Admiralty as mail-packets.

*Agricultural Association.*—There is no public or private Association in this parish for the encouragement or improvement of any branch of industry: but several of the farmers are members of the Stranraer and Rhins of Galloway Agriculture Society, which is of recent origin, but is believed to have excited considerable interest in the improvement of the breeds of cattle and of the art of ploughing.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

The nearest market-town is Stranraer, where there is a general weekly market on Fridays, besides other stated markets during the year.

*Town.*—The town of Portpatrick was “erected into a burgh of barony in the end of the reign of James VI., or beginning of the reign of Charles I. before 1628.” (Chalmers’ Caledonia, Vol. iii. p. 408) : but the charter seems to have remained a dead letter, so far as respects the establishment of a burgh magistracy or police. There is only one justice of the peace in the parish. There has recently been stationed in the town, in connection with the police of the county, a sub-constable, whose district comprehends the parishes of Portpatrick, Leswalt, and Kirkcolm, and who acts under a superintendent residing at Stranraer. There is no trade worth mentioning. Lime from Ireland and coals from Ayrshire are imported for the use of the parish, and occasionally the agricultural produce of the district is exported ; but rarely, as the greater part is sold at Stranraer, either for consumpt there or for exportation. The number of cattle and horses imported here from Ireland is now very inconsiderable. It appears from the Statistical Account of 1791, that the number of cattle and horses imported in the preceding year was 17,275 ; in 1812, it reached 20,000 : but last year (1837) it amounted to no more than 1080. Both cattle and horses from Ireland are now conveyed so easily and safely by steamers to Liverpool or Glasgow, that the short sea passage at Portpatrick is not so desirable for them as when steam navigation was unknown or in its infancy.

There was a large custom-house establishment not very many years ago at Portpatrick, with a collector, comptroller, &c. connected with the custom-house at Stranraer. There is now only a single tide-surveyor.

The eastern boundary of the parish takes in a few houses of the small village of Lochans. Through this village the turnpike-road passes from Portpatrick to Stranraer. About five miles of this road lie within the parish, and are kept in admirable repair.

*Post-Office.*—There is a post-office in the town, at which letters from Ireland are sorted for the Scotch and English mails, and through which the number of letters and newspapers that pass to and from Ireland is supposed to amount to between 8000 and 10,000 daily. A mail-coach between Portpatrick and Glasgow, and another between Portpatrick and Dumfries, arrive and depart every day, each drawn by two horses, and calculated to carry, besides the guard and driver, four passengers inside, and four outside. The fares to Glasgow inside are L. 1, 8s., and outside, 18s. ; to Dumfries inside, L. 1, 10s., and outside, L. 1, 1s. ; to Stranraer inside, 3s., and outside, 2s.

*Packets.*—Of the two steam-packets supplied by the Admiralty for the service of the post-office, one sails to Ireland, and the other returns daily. These packets carry cabin-passengers for a fare of 5s., and deck-passengers for 2s. The following table, supplied by the packet agent, shows the number of cabin and deck-passengers who have crossed the channel in these packets from 4th May 1825 to 1st August 1838.

During the year.	To Ireland Cabin.	Deck.	From Ireland Cabin.	Deck.	During the year.	To Ireland Cabin.	Deck	From Ireland Cabin.	Deck
1825 from 4th May	569	659	595	9481	1832	554	5999	490	3849
1826	556	6490	557	5985	1833	427	4348	435	3847
1827	457	6962	450	5176	1834	470	5171	489	4588
1828	536	6202	539	4857	1835	429	4525	397	4245
1829	459	6543	483	4868	1836	543	3566	519	4050
1830	529	7057	516	6013	1837	531	3443	455	4103
1831	572	5706	513	6196	1838 to 1st August.	222	1670	213	2683
Total number of passengers during all these years.						6,854	67,705	6,565	63,301

“Portpatrick,” says Chalmers, (*Caledonia*, Vol. iii. p. 409,) “owes its increase to its having become the port of communication with Ireland. It was only in 1662 that a regular post was established between Scotland and Ireland through Portpatrick; and then only once a week. Formerly the harbour at Portpatrick, in its natural state, was a mere inlet between two ridges of rocks that advanced into the sea; and as there is a prodigious swell from the west, upon the mouth of this creek, without any elbow to protect a vessel, it was then only practicable for small flat-bottomed vessels to navigate here; and it was necessary for every one that arrived to take the ground; and all the people of the place collected and drew the vessel on the beach, out of the influence of the waves. In order to remedy this inconvenience, a very fine pier was built; but this having also been found insufficient, a project is now in operation, under the authority of Parliament, (1820,) for very greatly improving the harbour of Portpatrick; so as to afford perfect security and convenience at this frequented passage. There is a reflecting light-house at Portpatrick, and another a Donaghadee on the Irish side, both which were built before 1790. Portpatrick forms one of the creeks of the port of Stranraer.”

The “project” referred to in the above extract began to be executed in March 1821, under the superintendence of a board of commissioners appointed by act of Parliament, and consisting chiefly of gentlemen belonging to the neighbouring district. A harbour greatly more extensive than the former, and comprehend-

ing it in its arms, was planned by the justly celebrated engineer, the late Mr Rennie, and the work was carried on for some time by a resident engineer under his direction. Subsequently to his death, the direction was transferred to his son, the present Sir John Rennie. The whole plan was originally designed for sail-vessels, and was admirably adapted for their *warping* out into the current of the channel in any weather, when it was possible for them to go to sea. After the substitution of steam-vessels as mail-packets, it was found necessary to excavate to a greater extent than was contemplated in Mr Rennie's plan, in consequence of which the original estimate (about L. 120,000,) became deficient, and an additional grant was made by Parliament, which it is believed will complete the work. The form of the new harbour very much resembles a horse shoe. From the south side of it, the old quay, a pier showing the date 1774, points inward, nearer the land than the centre of the basin, whilst the other side embraces a large rock, by which it is partly sheltered from the sea that enters the mouth of the harbour. Both sides run out into piers, inclining slightly towards each other, and furnished with jetties near their extremities, by which the entrance is contracted to 180 feet. The north pier is not yet finished; but the south one was completed about three years ago, and is a very handsome building. The parapet is wrought in massive grey limestone from Wales, and terminates in a semi-circular curve, half embracing and protecting a handsome lighthouse 46 feet in height, and built of the same material. The back of this pier is protected by a glacis of rubble-work. From the extent of a quarry to the south, some idea may be formed of the enormous quantity of stone that has been poured into the deep in the construction of this harbour. But no one who did not see the work at its commencement, or in the early stages of its progress, can estimate the labour expended in excavating rock under water in the basin, partly by means of puddle dikes, and partly with the diving-bell. An animated description of these operations has been given by Mr M'Diarmid in his "Sketches of Nature." Although much opposition has been raised of late to this harbour as the station for the mail-packets between Scotland and Ireland, there seems to be very little reason to doubt of its possessing many very great advantages, in which no other station that has yet been suggested can compete with it. It is the *nearest point to Ireland*, being only 21 miles distant, which during nine-tenths of the whole year, gives it an undeniable superiority. Steamers can go out here

in any weather, and effect a safe passage, and there is a *peculiarity in the currents of the channel, which, in connexion with the prevailing winds*, contributes to the facility of the passage.

Notwithstanding all the disadvantages resulting from the unfinished state of the harbour, and the limited power of the vessels employed, the regularity and expedition with which the mails have been conveyed to and from Ireland at this station is remarkable. It appears from the report of Mr Napier of Glasgow, that steamers of 80 horse power could be built capable of entering the harbour of Portpatrick in its present state, whereas those at present used, have only 50 horse power.

Notwithstanding much that has been said through ignorance, it is not to be believed that any enlightened and patriotic man, who shall rightly estimate not only the commercial but all of the many other advantages of *by far the shortest sea passage* between Scotland and Ireland, will blame the expense that has already been incurred, or even grudge more if necessary, to render this passage as secure and easy in all sailing weather as a good harbour on both sides of the channel, with steamers of the highest available power, could make it.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church being in the town, which contains more than half of the population of the whole parish, could not be more conveniently situated, although it is nearly five miles from the extremities of the parish. It was built in 1628 and 1629. It is at present in indifferent repair; but it has been resolved by the heritors to erect a new one, of sufficient size to accommodate the parish. The present building, which is in the form of a cross, with a round tower as a belfry, contains 300 sittings, none of which are free except those on a form placed in the middle passage. The manse was built probably more than sixty years ago. It received an addition of two rooms in 1824, and was thoroughly and comfortably repaired in the beginning of this year (1838) for the reception of the present incumbent. At the same time the garden was enclosed with an excellent six feet wall. The glebe consists of 12 acres of arable land close to the town on the south, and worth about L. 30 per annum. The stipend of the minister in 1755 was L. 55, 5s. 10d., and in 1798, L. 130, 12s. 3d. Some years ago a part of the stipend previously paid to the minister of Portpatrick was sued for by the minister of Inch as belonging to him, and recovered by him. The amount at present paid by the heritors to the minister of Portpatrick is L. 88, 10s. 5d., of which

Colonel Hunter Blair pays L. 67, 11s. 2d., Colonel Vans Agnew, L. 15, 19s. 9d., and the Earl of Stair, L. 4, 19s. 6d. After deducting from this sum the allowance for communion elements, the difference between the remainder and L. 150 is paid by the Exchequer under the act for augmenting small stipends.

There are no places of stated public worship in the parish besides the Established Church. As this church contains only 300, the members of church-going families attached to the Establishment are under the necessity of attending by turns, and few children are to be seen in church. In these circumstances, it is impossible to say how many individuals are in the habit of attending; but the number who attend either regularly or occasionally, as they can be assured of finding seats, may probably amount to about 600. Divine service in the parish church is usually well attended.

The following table shows the number of the population belonging, or professing to belong, to each of the several religious denominations known in the parish, with the number of communicants in each, and the number of sittings paid for by members of each denomination in the Catholic or in Dissenting congregations in Stranraer.

		Denomination.	No. of Members of all ages.	No. of Communicants.	No. of sittings in Con- gregations in Stranraer.
Presbyterian Pro- testant Dissenters 2892	{	Establishment,	1591	-	437
		Episcopalians attending the Established Church,	24	-	3
		Catholics,	114	-	32
		Reformed Presbyterians,	46	-	23
		United Secession,	161	-	52
		Relief,	55	-	18
					12

There are five elders in the kirk-session besides the minister; and three others have been lately elected. A parochial association in aid of the General Assembly's four schemes, viz. Church Extension, School Extension, Foreign Missions, and Colonial Churches, was formed in August last; the committee of management consisting of a president and vice-president, the members of kirk-session, thirteen collectors, a secretary, and a treasurer. Previously to the formation of this association, the average amount of church collections yearly for religious and charitable objects, besides the regular and ordinary weekly collections for the poor, may be stated at L. 7.

*Education.*—The number of schools in the parish, and the number of scholars in each, varies so much not only from year to year, but during every year, that the purpose of this Statistical Account will be best served by the following report made to the

presbytery in 1835, and exhibiting nearly the average of the last seven years. There is one parochial and seven private schools, the teachers of which, with one exception, belong to the Established Church. The branches taught are, English reading, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, mensuration and navigation; and the school fees vary from 2s. to 3s. per quarter. The parochial schoolmaster has a salary of L. 30, besides the school fees. The yearly average number of scholars attending these schools is 225.

At present, there are four schools in the town, and three in the country. Of those in the town, one with six scholars has, for a year past, been under a teacher employed by the gentlemen of the parish, at the rate of L. 12, 12s. per annum for each scholar; and another, with about 70 scholars, at the ordinary rate, has, for the same time, been under a teacher, appointed by a committee of the inhabitants, who secure to him either 60 scholars, or the wages for that number. Both of these schools are well taught.

The present parochial teacher was the first who enjoyed a regular salary from the heritors. He was appointed in 1804. For about eight or ten years he taught in a room of the old barracks, above a lodging-house, whence all sorts of noise, and language of the worst description, might often be heard in the school. For about a year after this time he taught in his own dwelling-house, which had been erected for him about three years after his appointment. He was then accommodated with the present school-house. The school-house and schoolmaster's house afford the legal accommodations; but they are in indifferent repair. The number of the young between six and fifteen who cannot read, is 103, who cannot write, 210. The number of persons upwards of fifteen who cannot read is 83, who cannot write, 383.

The Bible and the Assembly's Shorter Catechism have always been used as ordinary class-books in the schools of this parish; but it does not appear that the daily exercises have commenced with prayer. The superintendence of the presbytery has never amounted to more than simple inspection annually by a committee of two or three ministers.

The standard of education is very low in the parish generally; but there seems to be an increasing desire of improvement in this respect. There is no part of the parish so distant from a school as to prevent attendance. The great evil here is the desire to have schools in every quarter, rather than to secure the services of two or at the most three *good* teachers, which would be a sufficient



number for the necessities of the whole parish. In one district a teacher was recently employed by a committee of the inhabitants, who could hardly write, and who could not spell the most common English words. He lived in the school-house with his wife and two children; and they begged in the neighbourhood whilst he was teaching. This was certainly an extreme case; but it occurred only three years ago. It may be safely affirmed that, during the last six years, three-fourths of the teachers in the parish have not earned the wages of a good ordinary labourer. A considerable sum has been subscribed, chiefly by the principal heritor and his sister, Miss Jemima Hunter Blair, for the erection of a comfortable school-house and schoolmaster's house in a central position of the country part of the parish. It is hoped that this school will supply the greater part of the deficiency, which is altogether a deficiency in the quality, and not in the number of the schools. There has been a visible improvement in the general conduct and morals of the people since the facilities of education were increased. But a considerable share of the credit, so far as education is concerned in it, is due to Sabbath schools, originally established by a committee composed of Dissenters and members of the Established Church, patronized by the late minister, and assiduously cherished by his daughters, who taught in one of them. These Sabbath schools have been recently united in one, under the superintendence of the kirk-session, and having on its lists 210 scholars, of whom about 180 may be reckoned to attend every Sabbath. Only religious instruction is given in this school, and it forms also a congregation of the young, in which prayer and praise are united with frequent addresses from the minister. Twenty-one teachers, male and female, give their services gratuitously.

*Literature.*—There is a small library connected with the Sabbath school, and consisting of 250 small volumes, which are lent out to those scholars who pay 2d. during three months for the use of them. There is a parish library consisting of 352 volumes, which are lent out to subscribers in the parish at the rate of 2s. per annum. This library was founded about nine years ago, by a donation of 108 volumes from Miss Hunter Blair, of whom mention has already been made, and who, though residing in Edinburgh, has ever shown the liveliest interest in the spiritual welfare of the parish.

*A Friendly Society*, instituted in 1817, for the support of members in sickness, has done some good. It would have been of more

general benefit, but that the surplus funds, having increased to a large amount under a too cautious management, and the entry-money bearing a fixed proportion to the amount of the funds having risen to a large sum, for a long time operated to the entire exclusion of new members. This evil has been lately remedied, and the number of members is increasing every month.

*A Savings Bank* was commenced about nine years ago, by the then assistant minister, Rev. Mr Campbell, with the countenance and assistance of the late Forbes Hunter Blair, Esq. of Dunskey. But the attempt to promote the design of this most desirable institution proved entirely abortive, chiefly in consequence, as it now appears, of an ungenerous and most absurd suspicion among the labouring classes, that their wages would be reduced if it were discovered that they could save money from their earnings to deposit in a bank.

*Poor's Funds.*—The average number of names on the list of regular paupers during the last seven years is 32. The allowances are paid on the first lawful day of each month, and have varied from 1s. 6d. to 17s. 2d. The average allowance may be stated at 4s. 6d. per month. But, besides the regular paupers, many receive occasional relief, and the sums thus given may amount to L. 20 in the year. The collections at the church door on Sabbaths have amounted to about L. 40 per annum at an average. A legacy of L. 180, left to the poor of the parish by the late Earl of Stair, yields L. 7, 4s. of interest per annum. The remainder of the sum necessary for the support of the poor and for other parochial charges ordinarily made on the poor's funds, has hitherto been contributed voluntarily by the heritors, in the proportion of their respective valuations. There is no aversion among the poor generally to accept of parochial relief, but quite the contrary.

*Prisons.*—There is a lock-up-house in the town, where prisoners may be confined securely enough, though not very comfortably, for a night or two; but it is very rarely used.

*Fairs* have never been held in this parish.

*Inns, Ale-houses, &c.*—There is a large and commodious Inn in the town, where nobility and travellers of rank frequently lodge in passing to and from Ireland. There are 8 other smaller inns and ale-houses, and a spirit store where liquors are retailed. The number of houses licensed for retailing spirits is beyond all doubt injurious to the morals of the people here as elsewhere. Three well regulated inns in Portpatrick would be amply sufficient for all

the purposes of orderly refreshment and comfortable accommodation.

*Fuel.*—About 300 tons of coal, chiefly from Troon and Ayr, are consumed yearly by the inhabitants, at the rate of about 14s. or 15s. per ton. The fuel chiefly used is peat, procured from mosses in the parish, and usually sold in the town at from 1s. 8d. to 2s. per cart load.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The more striking variations betwixt the present state of the parish and that which existed at the time of the last Statistical Account, have been already adverted to. The want of coal must prevent the introduction of manufactures to any considerable extent; but the condition of the working-classes would undoubtedly be improved if it were found profitable to introduce hand-loom weaving. The purity of the sea water here would render Portpatrick a desirable watering-place in the summer months, if baths were erected, and pains were taken to improve the bathing-ground, which could be easily done by quarrying a little of the rock in various places where nature has already almost formed plunge-baths on the shore. There is a very pure and mild summer atmosphere; the purest fresh water; one chalybeate spring; an admirable promenade on the piers, which are paved and dry in all weather; abundance of fish; easy communication with the markets of Stranraer, Donaghadee, or Belfast; excellent houses for lodging; a daily post; and, in good weather, facilities for travelling to all parts of the three kingdoms.

*December 1838.*

# PARISH OF STONYKIRK.

PRESBYTERY OF STRANRAER, SYNOD OF GALLOWAY.\*

THE REV. JAMES ANDERSON, MINISTER.

## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name, Situation, Extent, &c.*—THE parish of Stonykirk, more properly called Stephenkirk, comprising the united parishes of Stonykirk, Clayshank, and Toscarton, is situated on the west of the Bay of Luce. It is bounded on the south by the parish of Kirkmaiden; on the west by the Irish Channel, and the parish of Portpatrick; and by the parishes of Inch and Glenluce on the north.

The parish is of an irregular figure, extending about 7 miles in breadth, on the north, and then continuing to contract towards the south, until its breadth does not exceed 3 miles. It measures about  $33\frac{1}{2}$  square miles, and contains 21,420 imperial acres, of which not about 650, stretching along the bay of Luce, of a sandy soil, and 60 acres on the west, may now be reported as incapable of improvement. The soil of the rest, particularly of the eastern and southern district, is in general light and dry, and affords an early harvest. A tract, extending along the western district, and reclaimed, in a great part, from a mossy and heathy state, consists of a heavier and wetter soil, and is in consequence later in the maturity of its produce.

The surface is varied by many inequalities; but scarcely any of these deserves the name of a hill. There are about 1400 acres in detached spots, scattered over its surface, mostly considered capable of improvement.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The coast, on the north-west, is rather bold and rocky, and precipitous in some places, becoming less so as it approaches the south. It is indented by three bays, affording moorings to the fishermen's small craft. The eastern coast is rather sinuous and stony, and varied by two bays: that of Sandhead is capacious, and affords anchorage for lime and coal sloops. The lands extending from the Sandhead eastward, and joining the sands of Luce, (of which they are a continuation,) are marked with the ruins of many a vessel stranded on them, before the erection of the

\* Drawn up from Notes furnished by the parish Schoolmaster.

light-house on the Mull of Galloway. On the north and west shores, the land rises rapidly from the sea; but on the east and south-west, it slopes with a very gentle elevation.

*Climate.*—Perhaps it is from the almost peninsular situation of the parish, that the sky is, generally speaking, rather cloudy, and the atmosphere moist; and waterspouts are of occasional occurrence. The most prevalent winds are from the west and north-west, which are generally accompanied with showers, and squally in winter; and it is from the latter point that we experience our vernal and equinoctial gales. Our continued dry weather, however, and frosts, are accompanied with east wind, and the heaviest rains are always preceded by the south wind. The climate, upon the whole, is rather salubrious, and the inhabitants generally attain longevity.

*Hydrography.*—The little fresh water river which separates the parish on the north from the parish of Inchi is not above 20 feet wide when it leaves this parish; and continuing its course in an easterly direction, it flows into the sea at the Bay of Luce. Its name is Poltanton, and it is frequented by the par, the pike, and salmon and sea-trout from the bay of Luce. The sands on the Bay of Luce abound with a shell-fish vulgarly called muskins, or razor-fish, from its resemblance to that instrument: it is taken as an article of domestic food during the months of March and April. We may remark, that the cod-fishery mentioned in the old Statistical Account, as prosecuted with various success, supports its former character, affording nothing for exportation.

*Plantations.*—The parish contains about 370 acres of plantation. Some of the planting is considered to be above 160 years old. There are about five acres of natural wood.

#### II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Parochial Registers.*—There is a register of baptisms and marriages kept, which contains also the accounts of disbursements, and the minutes of the session. There is no register of deaths; and the births are by no means regularly entered.

*Land-owners.*—The landed proprietors are, John M'Taggart, Esq. of Ardwell, M. P.; Patrick Maitland, Esq. of Freugh; Major James M'Dowall, Esq. of Logan; Colonel Thomas Hunter Blair, C. B., of Dunskey; Vans Agnew, C. B., of Barnbarroch; Vans Hathorn, Esq. of Garthland; and the Honourable John William H. Dalrymple, Earl of Stair, Caldons. The estates of each of these gentlemen yield more than L. 500 Sterling

of annual rent.—The two principal heritors, John M'Taggart, Esq. of Ardwell, and Patrick Maitland, Esq. reside generally on their estates in the parish, unless when the former is attending his duties in Parliament.

*Antiquities.*—The parish contains three earthen mounds of a conical form; the most remarkable of which is near Balgreggan House, (the residence of Patrick Maitland of Freugh), which is 460 feet in circumference, and 60 feet in height, with an excavation on its summit, and defended by a circular fosse.—On the lands of Garthland, is a square tower 45 feet in height, and exhibiting on its battlements the date 1274; it was formerly the residence of the Thaners of Galloway. The Bay of Floats is, in this parish, so called from a belief that some of the vessels composing the Spanish Flota were wrecked there. On the lands of Ardwell are some remains of Druid temples and Pictish castles. Two gold lachrymatories, weighing three and a half ounces each, were found on the lands of Garthland in 1783. It may be added, that there are the ruins of an old church, on the farm of Clayshank, distinctly visible above the surface. And Kirkmadrine, with its church-yard, still preserved as a burying-place, contains some grave-stones, with antique inscriptions.

*Modern Buildings.*—A new church, on a magnificent scale, and of the Gothic order of architecture, was erected in the year 1827, the expenses of which amounted to L. 2000 Sterling; and in 1831, a new school-house and schoolmaster's dwelling-house, on a neat and commodious plan, were built. Within the last twenty-five years, a great number of farm-houses have been erected, all of which are very commodious and handsome, many of them consisting of two stories, and tastefully designed.

### III.—POPULATION.

Amount of population in 1801,	.	1848
1811,	.	2964
1821,	.	3133
1831,	.	2966

The increase in the population of 1821 was attributed to the ingress of Irish as servants and labourers; and the decrease in 1831 is attributed to the efforts of the heritors to check such ingress, with a view to the relief of the poor's funds.

There is no town in this parish, and the only villages are the Sandhead, containing at last census a population of 121; and the little village beside the church, with a population of 72.

Number of houses inhabited,	552
families in the parish,	571
families chiefly engaged in agriculture,	485
trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	99

There are three persons in the parish fatuous.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

##### *Agriculture.*—

The number of acres cultivated or occasionally in tillage, is	19100
constantly waste,	2300
under wood,	375
supposed capable of being brought under cultivation with a profitable application of capital,	1115

The farm-steadings in the parish, with few exceptions, are in a very commodious state. The farmers prefer the cultivation of wheat to that of barley. They practise the system of grain-cropping, and a farmer who, at the time of the old Statistical Account, could not produce three square yards of turnips in his garden, can now have a field of 20 acres.

Upon the whole, the modern system of farming, including reclaiming waste land, draining, &c. is practised in the parish and on the most approved plan; and for respectability, politeness, and intelligence, the farmers of Stonykirk need not shrink from a comparison with those of any parish in this district of Scotland.

*Rental.*—The rental of the parish amounts to L. 12,000 per annum.

*Quarries, Mines, &c.*—There are none of these worked in the parish; and the salt manufacture noticed in last account is quite neglected, as is the cultivation of flax.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

The nearest market-town is Stranraer, about six miles distant from the church. It is also the nearest post-town; but, under the new post-office regulations, we have a petty office at the village beside the kirk, one at Sandhead, and another between that and Kirkmaiden,—also an intermediate station between this parish and Stranraer.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church is situated about two miles from the Bay of Luce. It stands about six miles distant from the southern boundary, and nearly the same distance from the north-western limits of the parish. Though capable of accommodating nearly 1000, it is still too limited for the population when the inhabitants are disposed to attend. It was erected in 1827. The sittings may be considered as all free. The manse was erected about fifty years ago. It since received a new kit-

chen and dining-room, and repairs are still required. The glebe is about eight acres in extent. The grain stipend consists of 4 chalders of meal and 4 chalders of barley.

The number of families attending the Established Church is 410; of Dissenting or Seceding families, 74; of Episcopalian families, 2; of Roman Catholic families, 10.

*Education.*—There are, besides the parochial school, five others not endowed. Only the common branches of education are or can be taught in the private schools. The branches taught in the parochial school are, English, writing, arithmetic, English grammar, Latin, Greek, and French, with book-keeping, and practical mathematics. The rate of wages at the parochial school, which may be said to regulate those of the others, is 2s. 6d. per quarter for reading English; 3s. when writing is learnt with it; 3s. 6d. for English grammar and arithmetic; Latin, Greek, and French, with book-keeping, 5s. The parochial schoolmaster's salary is L. 25, 13s. 3d.; and his school fees do not exceed L. 10 a year. The number of the young between six and fifteen years of age who cannot read or write is 23, and the number above fifteen who cannot read or write is 4.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid amounts to about 60. The amount of contributions, on an average, may be stated thus: From church collections, L. 55; legal assessments, L. 58.

*Ale-houses.*—There are 5 licensed ale-houses or inns in the parish.

*Fuel.*—The fuel generally used is peat, cut from mosses on the estates of Freugh and Port of Spittal.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The parish presents, undoubtedly, striking changes since the date of the Old Account—in the mode of farming, and in the general aspect of the parish. Besides the parochial road from Stranraer to Kirkmaiden, passing through this parish, about eight miles along which the mail is carried thrice every week,—another road, almost parallel, runs through the western district, and opens a communication with Kirkmaiden and Portpatrick on the west. These roads are again intersected with three others, which afford a communication through the whole parish, and great accommodation to the farmers. Still, there is a want of roads in the northern district of the parish. The public are in daily expectation of eu-



joying the advantages of a new posting car, to ply every lawful day between Kirkmaiden and Stranraer.

Since the time of the old Statistical Account, the rental of this parish has been nearly quadrupled.

*January 1839.*

## PARISH OF PENNINGHAME.

PRESBYTERY OF WIGTON, SYNOD OF GALLOWAY.

THE REV. SAMUEL RICHARDSON, MINISTER.

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THE origin and import of the name Penninghame have been variously explained. The word appears in different forms,—Penighame, Penyghame, and Penninghame, and in each form sometimes without the final *e*. Chalmers, in his Caledonia, seems unfortunate in his derivation of this name from the Anglo-Saxon *penig* or *pening*, a penny, or penny land, and *ham*, a hamlet or village,—the hamlet on the penny land. There has been another derivation proposed from the Celtic, *pen-nan-caem*, the head or hill, or extremity of the ridge, which term is appropriate enough to the character of the parish, and the situation of the old church. The Rev. Dr M'Leod of St Columba, Glasgow, has no doubt that the name is Gaelic, and made up of two words, signifying either the land for grazing young cattle, or the penny land (the lot or portion) of the smith. That view of the derivation is supported by the circumstance of a pendicle of land, denominated the Smith's Croft, lying within a short distance of the ruins of the old church.

*Extent.*—The average length of the parish of Penninghame is nearly 14 miles, and the average breadth about 4. From the windings of the rivers which bound it, the breadth is very unequal, so that the average is not easily ascertained with any degree of accuracy; and the number of acres on the different farms amounts to scarcely the preceding measurement; but as some of the moss and moor pasture has perhaps not been measured very accurately, the probable average of miles may be as correct an estimate.

*Boundaries.*—The parish of Penninghame is bounded on the east by the river Cree, which separates it from Minnigaff toward

the north, and, from Kirkmabreck toward the south. The river Cree separates also the county of Wigton from the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright; on the south, Penninghame is bounded by the parish of Wigton, from which it is divided by the Bishop-burn, towards the east side; and towards the west by a small rivulet, which rises in the moorlands and runs into the Bladenoch; on the south-west and west, Penninghame is bounded by Kirkinner and Kirkowen, from which it is separated by the River Bladenoch; on the north, it is bounded by the parish of Colmonell, in Ayrshire.

The parishes of Penninghame and Wigton occupy the ridge formed by the Rivers Bladenoch and Cree; of which ridge about four miles from the southern extremity belong to Wigton.

*Topographical Appearances.*—Penninghame is much narrower towards the northern than towards the southern end; it increases much in breadth below Newtonstewart, particularly where it comprehends the moss of Cree. There is a range of higher land from north to south, nearly in the middle of the parish, sloping towards the rivers on each side. There are no mountains nor hills of any height at all considerable; and I am not aware that the elevation of the higher land above the level of the sea has ever been accurately ascertained.

The moss of Cree is a tract of low flat land, on the south-east corner of the parish, extending to 1500 or 2000 acres. It is covered deeply with moss; but a portion of it on the east side, next the river, has been long reclaimed, and produces excellent crops of wheat, oats, and beans. Some progress has been made in reclaiming the west side also, and with much success.

*Meteorology.*—The range of the barometer is from  $28\frac{1}{2}$  to  $30\frac{1}{2}$  inches. It does sometimes exceed those points, but not often. In December 1838, it fell below 28 inches.

The prevailing winds are from the south, south-east, and south-west; and from those points are the heaviest rains. There are sometimes rains from the east of long continuance, but generally lighter than those mentioned.

With the exception of marshy spots, the climate of Penninghame is rather dry, and it is healthful. The air is, upon the whole, mild, and the cold in winter is mitigated by the sea breeze.

*Hydrography.*—The tide flows up the river Cree by the side of the moss to within a short distance of Newtonstewart. The shore is flat and clayey, and the clay is generally covered more or less deeply with sand.

There is a harbour at Carty, about a mile and a half below Newtonstewart, at which vessels of from 35 to 45 tons burden arrive regularly; and occasionally vessels of a larger size arrive.

The only frith contiguous to the parish of Penninghame is the mouth of the River Cree, which flows into the Solway. The depth of the water varies, but at ebb-tide it is in no place considerable. As far as the parish of Penninghame extends, there is a current fresh stream, when there is no tide. The degree of saltness in the frith is not great, and it is much affected by the floods in the River Cree, and the streams which flow into it.

The current is pretty strong, both on the flowing and ebbing of the tide.

The depth of the water at Carty on the flowing of spring-tides is about twelve feet; sometimes a little more.

There is nothing remarkable in the springs in this parish, which are generally very pure, excepting one, that contains so much iron as to be useful to invalids in a dry season. Were it duly attended to, it might probably be made much more useful.

There are several small lakes in the north end of this parish, without any peculiarities. The loch of Cree is merely a portion of the river, which spreads out into a lake of about four miles in length; the breadth is various, but not great in any place. In some places, the water is pretty deep. The loch was much larger before the cutting of a rock, and deepening of the channel of the river, at the bottom of it, about forty years ago. That cutting gained a quantity of excellent meadow on each side of the water.

The only rivers contiguous to this parish are the Cree and the Bladenoch, which bound it, as has been stated, and unite below Wigton. The Bladenoch flows from Loch Mabery on the border of Ayrshire, and its course to the Frith of Cree is about twenty-four miles in length. The Cree rises in Ayrshire, not far from the boundary of this county, and falls into the Solway, after a course of about thirty miles.

*Geology, &c.*—There are no strata of rocks of any extent in Penninghame. The common stone of the parish, the greywacke of geologists, exists in several varieties, and is found almost everywhere. In one place, it is partially stratified, of no uniform dip, and of excellent quality for building; it forms walls, beautiful, strong, and, with due care, perfectly dry. It occurs in some places deeply tinged with iron ore. It is found in great and small quantities, and is quarried, sometimes with ease, and sometimes with considerable difficulty, and at much expense.

Greystone, or Galloway granite, is found in many places of Penninghame, but in masses, not stratified as in the neighbouring parish of Kirkmabreck. The masses of granite in this parish are from a few pounds to many tons in weight. Sometimes it is found mixed with red, and sometimes with green sienite. It is much used in building, and can be cut with wedges to any dimensions. It is commonly used instead of freestone, but when dressed to a smooth surface, it becomes expensive, though it forms a beautiful and durable building. In common cheap buildings, it is coarsely dressed with picks, and in that case the expense is less than that of freestone,—much time and labour are necessary for smoothing it with a kind of axe-shaped pikes and chissels, made for the purpose.

The soil of the parish is very various:—by the moss of Cree it is heavy, being a clayey loam. The moss itself is deep, and rests on clay: it contains trees, but where they grew, or how they became imbedded in it, is not known. On the higher land, the soil, where improved, is either dry, or may be easily made so, and bears good crops, especially barley, oats, turnips, and potatoes. The soil is particularly adapted for barley. The subsoil in those lands is generally either gravelly or sandy; sometimes it is a close kind of clayey till. In the northern end of the parish, the land is much inferior in value, and there is much variety of soils. The surface is generally uneven. The larger and smaller eminences are dry, while the land among them is frequently wet and marshy. A great portion of the parish is capable of being drained, and as there are stones to be found very generally, much of it might be drained at no great expense. Excepting in the south end of the parish, the soil is not in general very deep, and it requires a considerable quantity of manure, especially where the subsoil is sandy, or of a dry sharp gravel.

The fields abound with detached masses of stone, as well as with small loose stones. The clearing of an acre of those masses, some of them several tons in weight, is frequently attended with much expense; but as the fences on the hard land are commonly stone dikes, and as drains are often necessary, the stones may, in most instances, be turned to a good account.

*Ichthyology.*—Salmon are numerous in the Cree. The district is fully supplied with them, and many are sent to Carlisle and Liverpool. The upper part of the river has been carefully protected for some years, and the number of fishes has greatly increased. Under the term salmon I have comprehended grilse, which

are very abundant in the advanced period of the season. The fishing season extends from the 1st of January to the 25th of September. The salmon spawn from the end of November to January, and the fry begin to run towards the sea in March. There are also sea-trouts in the Cree, which are caught in considerable numbers in the summer season; and fresh-water, yellow, or burn-trouts, as they are termed, are caught at all times. They are found of a larger size, and in great numbers also in the lakes, and in the small streams that fall into the Cree from the mountains. Pike are numerous in some parts of the river and in the lakes. They are believed to be very destructive to other kinds of fish. They are not much caught, nor are they highly esteemed. Common eels are everywhere in the river and in the lakes, but they are not caught, except by boys for amusement. Smelts or spirilins run up the Cree in great numbers, particularly in March. Sometimes the water at the flow of the tide, about the mixing of the salt and the fresh, swarms with them. They are taken in great quantities, and many of them are sent to England.

*Botany.*—Among the exogenous plants, the natural order *Ranunculaceæ*, besides the *Ficaria*, the *Caltha*, and several species of *Ranunculus*, affords us the smaller meadow-rue (*Thalictrum minus*), which grows from about a mile northward from Newtonstewart, on the bank of the River Cree, up the course of the stream to Penninghame House. Of the order *Nymphaeaceæ*, we have both the white and the yellow water-lilies, (*Nymphaea alba* and *Nuphar lutea*.) It may be remarked, that no species of the *Papaveraceæ* occur here, excepting, perhaps, the larger celandine (*Chelidonium majus*.) I pass over several orders, which present nothing uncommon: but I cannot avoid mentioning the *Droseraceæ*, as furnishing the interesting sun-dew (*Drosera rotundifolia*), and the very curious *Parnassia palustris*. Of the *Polygaleæ*, *Caryophylleæ*, *Lineæ*, *Hypericineæ*, and *Geraniaceæ*, the common species are to be found in many places. Besides the common species of *Vicia* and *Lathyrus*, the important order *Leguminosæ* presents to us the rare and beautiful *Orobis sylvestris*, which grows in small quantity on the bank of the Cree, a little to the north of Newtonstewart. Of the *Rosaceæ* we possess the common genera and species. It is, however, worthy of remark, that the Scotch rose (*Rosa spinosissima*) is not, so far as I know, to be found here, or in any of the contiguous parishes; though it is abundant within the Rhinns of Galloway, and on the shores of

Mochrum and Luce. The rock-bramble (*Rubus saxatilis*) I have seen nowhere in this county but in one spot near the Cree, where it displays in autumn its pleasantly acid berries. The orders *Onagraceæ* and *Lythraceæ* have their representatives in this parish; and species of the numerous order *Umbelliferae* are but too common everywhere. I need scarcely name the *Caprifoliaceæ* and the *Rubiaceæ*, but to note, that the northern bed-straw (*Galium boreale*) is abundant on the banks of the Cree, and of the neighbouring stream, the Pinkill, in Minnigaff. I pass over the *Valerianiceæ* and the *Dipsaceæ*, as offering nothing remarkable. To these I may add the great order *Compositæ*, the genera of which, though numerous, are such only as are found in the greater part of Scotland. The *Cumpanulaceæ* and the *Ericaceæ* are in a similar predicament. The most distinguished plant of the order *Boraginaceæ* is the *Omphalodes sempervirens*, which exhibits its bright blue flowers in one or two places under the hedges on the road side. The only plant of the dangerous *Solanaceæ* which is indigenous in Penninghame is the bitter-sweet (*Solanum Dulcamara*), a deadly poison, but a valuable medicine. It grows in a hedge which borders the road leading from Newtonstewart to Wigton. The *Scrophularineæ* and *Labiatae* demand no special notice. But the *Lentibulariaceæ* must be mentioned, for the sake of the pretty, curious, and rare *Pinguicula lusitanica* (Portugal butterwort,) a few plants of which may be found in a single spot within the parish of Wigton, near the south-western boundary of Penninghame. The same species occurs more abundantly a few miles beyond the western limits of this parish, in Kirkowen, on the great road leading to Portpatrick. Of the Monochlamydeous plants, the most interesting orders to be found here are the *Chenopodeæ* and the *Polygoneæ*. The former affords us, besides the common species, the curious and useful *Chenopodium bonus-Henricus* (good Henry), which grows only on the sides of the road which leads from the hamlet of Penninghame to the main road leading to Wigton. The most interesting species of the *Polygoneæ* is the *Polygonum Bistorta* (Bistort or snake-root), which is found, not in this parish, but in Minnigaff, on the eastern bank of the Pinkell, a little way below Cumlodun cottage. Of the endogenous orders the most remarkable is the *Orchideæ*, the most frequent of which are the *Orchis maculata*, which adorns our moist meadows with its bright spotted leaves and its tufts of purple flowers; the *Platanthera bifolia*, the deli-

cate smell of which is dissipated by the sun, and is therefore sensible only in the morning and evening; and the *Gymnadenia conopsea*, which at all hours impregnates the air with its grateful odour. The other orders of this great division of plants do not seem to call for particular remark.

There are no forests in the parish, but there are several plantations; of the latter the greater part is not very old. Trees of many kinds are planted: the most common are, larch, Scotch pine, Norway spruce, oak, ash, and elm. On the dry land, the larch, Scotch pine, and trees of the spruce species, with oak, ash, elm, and beech, grow well. Evergreens of all kinds grow on damp ground, when the stagnant water has been drained off. Some of the plantations are on land not very valuable for other purposes; and even on the high cold exposed parts of the parish, the trees soon form a shelter to one another, and grow more quickly than could be expected. The effect of the shelter afforded by them becomes very soon perceptible on the adjoining fields. It is probable that there was a little natural wood near to the River Cree in the northern end of the parish, but the ground on which it must have grown seems all to have been planted.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

I have not learned that any authenticated historical events of importance have occurred in Penninghame. There are traces of a battle having been fought at Killiemore, not far from the tomb of King Galdus, in the neighbouring parish of Wigton; but what credit we should give to the history of that personage I do not presume to determine.

*Eminent Characters.*—Penninghame was the usual residence of the Bishops of Galloway, so that in one sense the persons, some of them very eminent, who successively held that see, may be regarded as having been connected with this parish (*Symson*, p. 38.) But the celebrated Bishop Alexander Gordon, (titular Archbishop of Athens,) who died in 1576, was connected with this parish by being proprietor of the estate of Clary, (afterwards the seat and still the property of the noble family of Galloway,) which estate he conferred on his only daughter, who was married to Anthony Stewart, Rector of Penninghame. (*Gordon's History of the House of Gordon*. Murray's *Literary History of Galloway*, 2d. edition, p. 40.)

But Penninghame has produced more than one distinguished character in more modern times. The Rev. Robert Rowan,

the first clergyman of the parish after the final establishment of Presbytery as the national religion in 1690, was an eminent man in his time. He was the friend and correspondent of Wodrow, the historian of the Church, to whom he communicated minute accounts of the heavy persecutions inflicted on the parish of Penninghame, both as respected life and property; which accounts, while they appear in an abbreviated form in the work of that celebrated historian, Rowan also engrossed in the parish records, where they still remain. Rowan seems to have acted an eminent part as a member of the church courts; and several learned letters are addressed to him by the Rev. James Webster of Edinburgh, respecting the alleged heresy of John Simson, Professor of Theology in the College of Glasgow, whose case was so long before the ecclesiastical courts, and who was ultimately suspended from his office on account of having taught erroneous doctrine. A correspondence was also carried on between Rowan and Simson, on the same subject. Rowan died in 1714.

The Rev. John Miller, minister of this parish from 1716 to 1746, had a son, George, who attained to considerable eminence. Having been settled as a planter in Virginia, he attached himself to the cause of the Royalists on the breaking out of the American Revolution in 1775. He was, in consequence, obliged to leave the country, and to forfeit his whole property. But on the return of peace, the English government, aware both of his eminent abilities, and of the sacrifices he had made, appointed him successively British Consul at Charleston, South Carolina, and Consul-General for the whole of the United States. He died in 1798.

But perhaps the most distinguished person that Penninghame ever produced was the late Dr William M'Gill, one of the ministers of Ayr, and author of "A Practical Essay on the Death of Jesus Christ." Dr M'Gill was born of respectable parents at Carsenestock, in this parish, in the year 1731. His "Practical Essay," being supposed to inculcate principles both of an Arian and Socinian character, created a strong sensation, not only among the orthodox clergy of the Established Church, but also among Dissenters. Various pamphlets were published in answer to the work; and not a few clergymen thought it their duty to warn their hearers from the pulpit against its pernicious tendency. The whole west of Scotland, indeed, was involved in a religious ferment, which was perhaps heightened by the wanton attacks of the poet Burns. At last the matter was brought before the church courts. Dr M'Gill at first strenuous-



ly defended the soundness of his views, and at the same time, endeavoured to prove that these views were not hostile to, or incompatible with, the doctrine taught in the Confession of Faith. Ultimately, however, for the sake of peace, and finding that farther contention might lead to results not very agreeable to himself, he was induced to make such an explanation and apology as were satisfactory to the synod of Glasgow and Ayr, before which court the case was at the time undergoing trial. It may be mentioned that no question, agitated in modern times before our ecclesiastical courts, ever excited so intense and general an interest as that of which we have been speaking. The "Essay" in question was the only large work of which Dr M'Gill was the author; but he published several detached sermons; and contributed two excellent discourses to *The Scotch Preacher*. He died in 1807, in the seventy-sixth year of his age.

The late Rev. William Macartney, minister of Old Kirkpatrick, in the presbytery of Dunbarton, was born at Mains of Penninghame in 1762. His father rented that farm, and carried on at the same time the business of a corn-miller. Mr Macartney, who was an eminent classical scholar, as well as a superior man in other respects, published in 1798 the best translation that has yet appeared of *Cicero de Officiis*. He accompanied his translation with copious notes, which, however, are rather ethical and biographical than critical. He died in 1828. (*Murray's Literary History of Galloway*.) Mr Macartney had a brother, not less eminent than himself, but in a different department of life, namely, the late Mr Alexander Macartney, long Manager of the Commercial Banking Company of Scotland,—a gentleman whose knowledge as to the science of money and of banking subjects generally, was inferior to that of no individual of his time. He died in the month of December 1838, in the seventy-second year of his age.

*Land-owners.*—The chief land-owners are, the Earl of Galloway and James Blair, Esq. who possess about sixteen-sevenths of the parish, in valuation.

*Parochial Registers.*—Parochial registers of births, baptisms, and proclamations for marriages, with the exception of a short period in last century, have been kept with considerable regularity. The oldest entry is 17th October 1696. The records extend to six volumes of different sizes, and these volumes contain a full and distinct state of the receipts and disbursements of the parish

funds, with the names of the persons who have received parish aid since 1696, excepting during the period already mentioned.

*Antiquities*,—About five miles north of Newtonstewart are the ruins of a chapel, which was built in 1508, by John Kennedy of Blairquhan, who dedicated it to St Ninian, and endowed a chaplainry for the celebration of divine service in it, with an annual rent of L. 8, 10s. from the barony of Alloway. This was confirmed by the King's charter, 20th June 1508.—(See Caledonia, Vol. iii. page 435.)

About three miles farther north, along the right bank of the river Cree, was the more ancient Kery or Keir chapel, of which I have not been able to find any ruins. But there is a place very near the spot on which that chapel stood, named Kirkhoble, or, as pronounced, Kirkhapel, or Kirkhapple; and there is another place not distant, named Glenhapple, or, as almost uniformly pronounced Glenhapples,—which circumstances lead me to suppose, that the chapel distinctly mentioned by Chalmers, at the head of the Loch of Cree, may have been dedicated in honour of Saint Hippolytus. There are two saints of that name in the Calendar, one of them the tutor of Origen.

The ruins of the old parish church, and a burying-ground, are about three miles south of Newtonstewart, at the Clauchan of Penninghame, which contains now but few houses. The old church was dedicated in honour of Saint Ninian. When Symson wrote his "Large Description," &c. there was at the church of Penninghame, a bell with the following inscription, in Saxon letters, "Campana Sancti Niniani de Penigham, M." from which he supposes that it had been dedicated in honour of the saint A. D. 1000.

When James IV. passed through Penninghame on the 7th March 1506-7, on a pilgrimage a-foot to Whithorn, he gave at the Clauchan of Penninghame a donation of 9s. to a man that bore St Ninian's bell. From that circumstance, the author of Caledonia concludes that it was an hand-bell. That conjecture is almost confirmed by another circumstance. Very near to the ruins of the old church is a small knoll, still denominated the "bell knowe." On that eminence, it seems most probable the man stood, and rang the bell at the fixed hours.

There are still some remains of the house of Clary, anciently called Clachary; and the garden, at least the fruit-trees in it, still continue to produce crops.

About three miles north from Newtonstewart are the ruins of Castle Stewart, which was the residence of the Stewarts of Castle Stewart. The youngest brother of the Earl of Galloway, about the end of the seventeenth century, married the heiress of Castle Stewart, grand-daughter of Colonel William Stewart.

The property was, for some time, in the possession of the Earl of Galloway. But about thirteen years ago, it was purchased by James Blair, Esq. whose residence, Penninghame House, is about half a mile from the ruins of the old castle, near to the River Cree, beautifully situated at the southern extremity of the Loch of Cree.

Coins have been found at different times (and on one occasion the quantity was considerable) on the west side of the parish,—near to Killimore, already mentioned as the place on which there are traces of a battle having been fought. The coins are old, but I have never been able to procure any on which the inscription was legible, or on which any distinct traces of their precise age could be observed.

In Killimore there are many graves about which nothing is known. It is not a burying-ground, nor was it at any period, so far as can be ascertained. I am not aware that any of the graves have been opened or carefully examined.

The following notices have been obligingly contributed by Joseph Train, Esq. Castle Douglas.

“The head of a Roman spear, nine inches in length, was dug up in the year 1813, at Merton Hall, in Penninghame parish, where the military road passes from Newtonstewart to Glenluce. This ancient weapon is now in the possession of Dr Black of Bolton, formerly of Newtonstewart.

“A Roman battle-axe was found in the moss of Cree in 1818, resembling exactly that represented in Gough’s Camden, Vol. iv. Plate 7, Fig. 9. I presented this relic to Sir Walter Scott, and afterwards saw it in the museum at Abbotsford.

“A granite celt was dug up in the moor of Knockbrax, at least eight feet below the surface of the ground. I supposed it at first to be of freestone of fine quality, although its weight, which is 7 lbs. 9 oz., might have convinced me that this was a mistake. However, on perforating the side with a chissel, the real quality of the stone gradually became more evident, as the point of the instrument receded from the surface, till at last I found it to be of the hardest granite. This leads me to suppose that the exterior texture of this ancient weapon of war has been changed by the

great length of time it must have remained in the moss. After having communicated these particulars to Mr Chalmers, he replied, "I have seen only one celt discovered in Ireland, but there have been several discovered in Britain. From this and other circumstances, I am inclined to infer that the settlement of Ireland is much later than that of Britain, whatever General Vallency may say." I sent this stone celt also to Sir Walter Scott. I think he alludes to it in his *Border Antiquities*.

"The Celtic people of very early times left other remains, which lay open to us some of their modes of life. Canoes resembling those used by the savages of America have been found in the Carlinwark Lake and in Loch Doon. In the moss of Barnkirk, in the immediate neighbourhood of Newtonstewart, a canoe was found about the year 1814 made of a single log. Mr M'Millan, writer in Newtonstewart, being then the occupant of Barnkirk, caused this singular remnant of antiquity to be made into the lintel of the door of a cart-shed on the farm of Barnkirk, where it may yet be seen. Part of the sides are cut away, but the hold of the canoe is yet about ten inches deep, and nineteen inches in breadth. When entire it appears to have been four or five inches broader at the top. The length of the hold is seven feet six inches; the bow and stern seem to have been a little rounded, and the mark of the axe or chissel, by which the log was hollowed, is seen, particularly at each end, where the grain of the wood is cut across.

"I saw a ball of fat, or bannock of tallow, weighing 27 lbs., that was found in the moss of Barnkirk immediately over the canoe, at least six feet from the surface, by people casting peats there.

"It is a remarkable fact, that, in the small valley of Barnair, there are 49 cairns placed in regular order. That in the centre is 30 feet in diameter. The others are only 25 feet in diameter each. That a great battle was fought there, may be reasonably supposed; but at what period, and by whom, is now wholly unknown."

*Modern Buildings.*—The present church of Penninghame was built in 1777. It is in a very insufficient state, and it is very inadequate to the accommodation of the people; a great part of the village of Newtonstewart having risen since the church was built. A contract has been entered into by the heritors for a new church, suitable to the present amount of the population, on an elegant plan furnished by William Burn, Esq. architect, Edinburgh,—expense about L. 5000. The church now standing is a very plain

building, in the village of Newtonstewart, affording by no means suitable accommodation.

Penninghame House, the residence of James Blair, Esq. is about four miles north of Newtonstewart, on the border of the river Cree, as already mentioned.—Merton Hall, belonging to Edward Boyd, Esq. is about two miles from Newtonstewart, near the road to Glenluce.—Corsbie, belonging to the Earl of Galloway, is very near Newtonstewart; and Corrisel, belonging to Captain John M'Kerlie, R. N. a few hundred yards from it, on the road to Wigton.

There are two mills for grain in the parish, but no manufactory.

There is a town-hall in Newtonstewart, and under it a lock-up-house, for the temporary confinement of those who transgress the laws. The buildings here specified are all of stone, blue or whinstone (trap), and the rybats, lintels, &c. of granite or freestone. The wood used in building is generally American red or yellow pine; and in some of the older houses it is from the Baltic. Larch and other firs are used in farm-steadings occasionally, but not in houses of any considerable size.

### III.—POPULATION.

The population in 1755 was	-	-	-	1509
1791	-	-	-	2260
1801	-	-	-	2569
1811	-	-	-	2847
1821	-	-	-	3090
1831	Males, 1636; females, 1823;			3461

The population of Penninghame was much increased by the establishment of a cotton-mill in the end of the last century; and it has continued to be increased by the demand for labourers in the progress of agricultural improvement. Many families from Ireland, travelling in quest of work, on getting temporary employment, frequently settle here. We have had some emigration of late years, but not so extensive as to affect perceptibly the amount of population. The persons emigrating have not been generally of the poorest class.

The population residing in Newtonstewart is	-	-	2241
the country,	-	-	1220
		Census 1831,	3461
Yearly average of marriages for the last seven years,	-	-	224
births for the same period,	-	-	704

No record of deaths.

The preceding is the number of births registered, but some Dissenters do not register their children in the parish records, and therefore the average marked must be under the real number.

From the proportion of Dissenters, and making a deduction for those of them who do register, I am disposed to think, that the real average of births may be very nearly 85.

Number of persons under 15,	-	-	-	-	1314
between 15 and 30,	-	-	-	-	827
30 and 50,	-	-	-	-	663
50 and 70,	-	-	-	-	524
upwards of 70,	-	-	-	-	133
Number of families of independent fortune,	-	-	-	-	10
proprietors of land above L. 50 yearly value, (all the proprietors of	-	-	-	-	7
land, except feuars in Newtonstewart,)	-	-	-	-	66
unmarried men, bachelors, and widowers, upwards of 50,	-	-	-	-	151
unmarried women upwards of 45,	-	-	-	-	13
insane, fatuous, blind, deaf, and dumb,	-	-	-	-	557
families in the parish,	-	-	-	-	147
chiefly employed in agriculture,	-	-	-	-	249
trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	-	-	-	-	

Number of illegitimate births in the parish during the last three years, 25.

*Character, &c. of the People.*—The habits of the Scotch and Irish portions of the population are very different. The Scotch are generally provident, endeavouring to promote the comfort of themselves and their families; and many of them show a desire to live within their incomes, even when very small. They show also almost uniformly a desire to have their children clothed and educated. The Irish come to this parish in great poverty; and, in general, seem but little desirous of making provision for the future. They do not pay much attention, in many instances, to clothing, either for themselves or for their children; and having commonly but very little instruction themselves, they are certainly not very attentive to the education of their families. But after having been some time in this country, their habits change frequently very much, and they acquire a relish for comfort, and pursue the only means of attaining it. There are instances of some of them having become saving and comfortable in no long time; but in too many cases, they retain the habits which they bring with them. Upon the whole, the people do enjoy, in a reasonable degree, the comforts and advantages of society. They were apparently, in a great measure, contented with their situation and circumstances, showing, at the same time, a laudable desire to improve them, previously to the excitement produced by the Reform Bill: but since that time there have been evident symptoms of discontent and disappointment, and much more in the village than in the country. The people in their respective stations are, upon the whole, well informed; and their moral character stands high. In the landward part of the parish, there is much attention paid to the observance of religious duties; and very little avowed neglect of religious ordinances. In the village,

though there is not the attention paid to these matters that could be wished, there is not much avowed neglect. The frequent shifting of the population in Newtonstewart diminishes much the influence of pastoral superintendence on part of the population. The great distance from the parish church in some cases, and the want of due accommodation, render the attendance at church less than it would otherwise be. The want of suitable clothing, too, is not unfrequently pled as an excuse for absence from public worship. But the two last assigned causes—want of accommodation, and indifferent clothing—have been met by an additional service in the church at six o'clock on Sabbath evening; at which the attendance is very respectable, and increasing.

Poaching in game is carried on to a great extent, and is decidedly a most demoralizing practice. Facilities seem to have been given to poaching by the act authorizing the sale of game; and the temptations are increased by the ready steam communication with England. Poaching in this parish brings uniformly both individuals and their families to misery and ruin. It is believed that there is now very little poaching in the salmon-fisheries. The rivers are carefully watched.

Smuggling has for a long time decreased in this parish, and is now scarcely known.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

##### *Agriculture.*—

Number of acres imperial, cultivated or occasionally in tillage, about	12,000
that have never been cultivated, about	20,000
of meadow, about	1600

Besides the preceding, there is a great number of acres of moss, of which I am not able to procure any accurate measurement. From the size of the parish, as already calculated in miles, there are about 4000 acres of moss, lakes, roads, &c. and that quantity corresponds nearly with the conjectural measurement.

Of the acres in pasture that might be cultivated with advantage, there are about 1200 marked in the returns from the farmers; but I am satisfied that much more of that land might be improved by being ploughed and laid down in grass, to remain in pasture. Some of the meadow land would carry good crops of grain, but it is more profitable in the present state. What portion of the moss might be improved profitably, it is impossible to state. There is no land in this parish in a state of undivided common. There are about 600 acres under wood. There is little

natural wood. Any trees that may be considered indigenous are oak ; but I am disposed to believe that they have all, at some period, been planted.

The management of woods is now good,—much more attention being paid to them than was paid formerly. The use of saw-mills enables the proprietors to turn the produce easily, and at very moderate expense, into money. Thinning, felling, and pruning are practised judiciously. With respect to forest trees, there seems to be less and less pruning.

*Rent of Land.*—The average rent of land in this parish, it is not easy to state. About Newtonstewart, the average rent is from L. 3 to L. 2 per Scotch acre, as the land is near the village ; and the land decreases in value, in proportion as it is farther from the village ; though the introduction of bone manure has certainly caused the rent of land to be less affected by that circumstance than it was. The loamy arable land near the Moss of Cree is rented at from L. 1, 10s. to L. 2 per Scotch acre. In the upper, or north end, and west side of the parish, the arable land is worth considerably less in general. The rent of the arable land attached to sheep-walks is not known ; it is valued merely as an accommodation to the families in the farms ; the value of which is calculated from the sheep and cattle grazed on them. In these farms, the dependence is on hay for winter fodder for the cattle,—not on straw, to a great extent. As the farms are valued from the stocks which they are capable of maintaining, less attention is paid to their exact contents in acres ; and the precise number of acres in some of the high-lying rough sheep-walks, comprehending, in some cases, large portions of moss, I believe, may not have been ascertained.

The average rent of grazing an ox or cow for a year is from L. 4 to L. 5 ; a ewe or full-grown sheep from 3s. 6d. to 7s., according to the size of the animal, and the quality of the pasture. The rent mentioned does not include dry fodder for the ox or cow during winter, which may cost nearly as much. The price of hay varies greatly according to the season ; probably, on an average, excluding a year of particular scarcity, the price of rye-grass hay may be stated at 6d. for twenty-six pounds, and of bog hay, 4d. for the same quantity. There is not much straw sold, as the tenants generally are not allowed to remove it from the land which they occupy.

*Wages.*—The average rate of labour is about 1s. 4d. or 1s. 6d. per day in summer, and 1s. 2d. in winter, varying, however, according to



the demand. Cutting peats and mowing are generally had at 2s. 6d. per day. Artisans commonly work in their own houses now, and charge for the work done. There are, however, still a few exceptions, and their wages are from 2s. to 2s. 6d. per day for wrights; and from 2s. 6d. to 3s. for masons.

*Live-Stock.*—The sheep of the original breed have been mentioned, and they still constitute the stocks of the sheep-farms: but sheep of the Leicester, Cheviot, and other breeds have been introduced into the parish, particularly into the south end; and they seem to be increasing in number. Cattle of the Galloway breed are over the whole parish, and much attention has been paid to the improving of them. There are some Irish cattle in this parish, by which the original breed is in some places affected. Kyle cows have also been introduced, particularly near to Newtonstewart. They are considered preferable, when milk is the principal object in keeping them. The pasture seems to suit them very well, and the management of them is beginning to be well understood. In this district, the object formerly was to rear cattle. There is much more attention paid to dairy produce since cattle became of less value, and of course did not pay the farmer so well.

*Husbandry.*—The general character of the husbandry pursued is good. In old and life leases, the tenants are commonly left much at liberty in the management of their farms; but these leases are now not many in number; and in all recent leases, the rotation of crops is distinctly specified, and strictly observed,—though there may be some small deviations permitted in particular circumstances. The common and most approved rotation is one grain crop (oats), though two are frequently allowed, a green crop, a grain crop, and the land sown with rye-grass and clover, &c. to lie in pasture for a longer or shorter period according to the number of fields, and other circumstances of the farm. A crop of barley is most common after a green crop. The system of husbandry would be improved by cleaning the land better,—in many cases, by ploughing deeper,—and by more care in making the fields dry.

*Improvements.*—There has been some improvement in reclaiming waste moss land. One tenant has reclaimed about seventy acres on the west side of the Moss of Cree. The land was worth about 3s. 6d. a year per acre. Improved, at the present low rate of value, it is worth about L. 1 a year per acre (Scotch.) The expense of im-

provement was about L. 8, 8s. per acre (Scotch.) But the expense of improving more land in the same place will not be the same in proportion, as the large drains necessary have been made.

Improvement has been made in the system of draining; but many are not duly aware of its importance, and are doubtful of a return for the money expended in such operations.

There have been in this parish, some specimens of deep draining (nine and ten feet deep) of late years, attended by the most obvious and most beneficial effects. In general, we have no want of declivities, so that draining to a common moderate depth of from two to four feet is not attended with much difficulty, except from the numerous lumps of stone under the surface. The expense of breaking or raising the stones, however, is, in a great measure, compensated, sometimes more than compensated, by their use in building, and covering the drains when cut. For the clayey land, in which there are no stones, tiles can be procured in the parish at a moderate expense. Upon the whole, draining in this parish is not an improvement of an expensive description; in comparison with other parts of the country. I am convinced, that, by deeper and better draining than has been generally practised, much of the pasture land might be rendered greatly more valuable.

Irrigation has been but little practised; and there is reason to believe, that in some parts of the parish, it might be productive of much advantage at a very moderate expense; but as the water is in general so pure, that advantage would be less than in other circumstances. Embankments have been made, of late years, to a considerable extent on the lands of the Earl of Galloway, against the tide and the River Cree; and there is the prospect of land being not only saved but gained by them.

In the lower (southern) part of the parish, the land is generally enclosed, the greater portion of it by stone-dikes, which gives rather the appearance of bareness and coldness to the district. There are hedges also, particularly in the wet clayey land, in which stones are scarce. In many places, it is very convenient to use the stones dug out in cleaning the fields, for dikes. In the sheep-farms, the march dikes are all of stone, as are also the division fences on the portions cultivated for the convenience of the families resident on the farms.

*Leases.*—Leases are of nineteen, twelve, and nine years duration. In most cases in which improvement is expected or agreed to, the leases are of nineteen years; and, indeed, that term is com-

mon throughout the parish. The shorter leases, for the most part, are given for the fields, and small portions near the village. The leases are commonly favourable to the occupiers; but there are cases certainly in which too much rent is offered. That evil, and a great evil it is, arises from competition among the offerers; and, instead of being beneficial, it is injurious to proprietors, as well as to tenants, because when the tenant's means are diminishing or exhausted, improvement or even good management of a farm cannot be expected.

The farm-buildings have been improved much of late years, and in general they are now good, substantial, and suitable to the farms.

The enclosures are in general adapted to the size of the farms; at least in all improvements, that adaptation is contemplated. The fences are various in kind and quality; those made at present, or that have been made lately, are high and sufficient for any purpose; but the old fences are, in many cases, low, and by no means strong. Some of them consist, in a great measure, of a single row of stones (or little more) piled on one another to a small height, and they soon become nearly as useless as they are ugly. The appearance of the country would be greatly improved by the introduction of hedge-rows, instead of stone dikes generally.

Great improvement has been made within the last twenty years by adopting a regular and better rotation of crops, and by better management of stock and farms generally, and also by draining, especially by introducing tiles for drains. Ploughing and all farm work are now done in a much better style than formerly, and the produce of the land has increased in proportion.

The embankments made by the Earl of Galloway form one of the principal improvements at present; and the effect may be expected to become soon very apparent. When completed, the quantity of land recovered may amount to about 100 acres; and it is contemplated to extend the operations greatly. The quantity of land that may be recovered still, is supposed to be about 800 acres.

The tenant in Baltersan, Mr John Hewetson, has reclaimed some valuable land from the moss of Cree, to which reference has already been made. He first made a deep drain along the edge of the moss, which intercepts the water from the higher land. The moss having been by that means dried, becomes fit for being dug and ploughed. The quantity reclaimed by him is about 70 acres.

Improvement is not impeded by the want of capital generally;

and the proprietors are disposed to give all reasonable encouragement to industrious and enterprising tenants.

The constant excitement about the corn laws, and the uncertain state in which they are believed to be, are considered to be most unfriendly to improvement.

*Quarries.*—The only quarries in the parish are those of common bluestone (greywacke) already mentioned, as used in building houses; and there is nothing particular in the manner of working these quarries.

*Fisheries.*—There is a salmon-fishing in the river Cree, and also in the river Bladenoch; and in both rivers, spirlings are caught in spring and autumn; sometimes they are caught in small numbers at other seasons. The rent of the fishings belonging to Penninghame amounts to about L. 100 per annum.

*Manufactures.*—In the end of last century, a manufactory for cotton was erected in this parish, at Newtonstewart, by Douglas, Dale, and Co., at an expense of above L. 20,000. It was erected particularly for spinning, but with the view of extending the work to weaving, &c. in the village. The speculation did not succeed well, and after a few years it was given up. In 1826, the premises were purchased by Lord Garlies for about five per cent. of the original cost. The houses have all been taken down; the materials of the mill, &c. were partly sold, and partly used in building farm-houses. The dwelling-houses, with three acres of the feu on which the mill stood, became the property of the Douglas Trustees, having been presented to them by the present Earl of Galloway, as a site for the Douglas School; and the materials of the houses were sold for the benefit of the Douglas funds.

The weaving of cotton still continues to be carried on in this parish, but not to a great extent; and it is rather diminishing. The webs come from Glasgow to agents in Newtonstewart, and the weavers have looms in their own houses, or hire them in some neighbour's house, at a weekly rent of about 8d. or 6d. The carriage from and to Glasgow forms a deduction from the payment, that is felt considerably, when the rate is low. In general, the trade does not remunerate very well those employed in it. The establishment of the cotton manufactory increased the number of paupers, and did not produce any permanent benefit to the parish.

There is now no regular manufactory in this parish. The tradesmen do not generally extend their work beyond the demands of

the district. Perhaps tanning and currying leather may form a limited exception.

*Navigation.*—The river Cree is navigable for small vessels to Carty, within about a mile of Newtonstewart; and the parish is dependent on ship-carriage for lime, freestone, and coals. Merchant goods and other commodities are now generally brought by the same kind of conveyance.

Vessels of 70 and 80 tons can sail to the port of Carty with spring-tides; but the vessels which commonly sail into it are from 35 to 45 tons burden. The steam-boat that plies between the Frith of Cree and Liverpool, has sailed to Carty; but the windings of the river form an objection in point of time. There is no other navigable river in the parish.

*Societies.*—There are a Horticultural and an Agricultural Society in the parish. But they were instituted two or three years ago only, and there has not been sufficient time for judging what their effects may be. There is reason to hope that they may be beneficial.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Towns.*—The only market-town in this parish is Newtonstewart, the population of which in 1831 was 2241; and there is every reason for believing, that the population is very nearly the same in amount at present. Newtonstewart has not been very long in reaching its present extent. The first feu-contract is dated 1701.

As has been stated, very little trade on a scale at all extensive is carried on in Newtonstewart. Bacon curing has been practised since 1830, to the great benefit of the district. Perhaps, on an average, from L. 5000 to L. 6000 a-year have been expended by the curers. The wool trade has been carried on for some years also, by people in Newtonstewart; but how much has been purchased on commission, how much on personal risk, I have not ascertained.

The police of the county of Wigton has this year been altered and extended. An officer with a salary now resides in Newtonstewart; and it is contemplated, that he shall have an assistant. For a few years, an officer has been paid by the heritors and others, with a small allowance from the county. From the situation of Newtonstewart, on the great road from London to Portpatrick, where it is intersected by the road from

Ayr to Wigton, the place is rather a convenient resort for those who are disposed to disturb the public peace.

There is no other market-town in the parish, nor any other village of any extent.

*Post-Offices.*—There is a post-office in Newtonstewart, which accommodates an extensive district. A letter-carrier has just been appointed by the post-office, for delivering letters, free of expense, to the inhabitants of the village.

*Means of Communication.*—The turnpike road from the Cree to the Bladenoch is about five miles long, and that from Newtonstewart to the High Bridge of Cree is about nine miles long, to the bridge at which it crosses the river, and enters the stewartry of Kirkcudbright.

We have excellent parish roads in Penninghame, on which there are no tolls. These roads extend in different directions, and together may be in length about thirty miles. The roads were formerly made of gravel, the quality of which in some places is sharp and good; but the turnpike roads have now been all Macadamized, and the others are in the course of being Macadamized.

One mail-coach passes and repasses daily, along the London and Portpatrick road; another goes to Portpatrick and returns, by the Mahars daily, Sundays excepted; and a mail-gig runs daily, Sundays excepted, to and from Girvan.

There are regular carriers to Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dumfries, the south end of the county, Stranraer and Girvan.

There are good bridges over the Cree and the Bladenoch, and over the rivulets on the roads through the parish. The bridge over the Cree at Newtonstewart is elegant and substantial, built of granite, with a freestone parapet. A bridge nearly on the same place was destroyed by a flood in the beginning of the present century. There is a new bridge on the same line of road, over the Bladenoch, not yet quite finished, instead of the very old one, a little higher on the river. The bridges on the parish roads over the rivulets are good generally, and in a good state of repair.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church is situate in the village of Newtonstewart,—conveniently for the great body of the population, but it is at a very inconvenient distance from the extremities of the parish. The present church was built in 1777, and is in a very indifferent state of repair; but a new church, adequate to the attending population, has been contracted

for by the heritors, and preparations are now making for building it.

The present church affords accommodation for about 700 sitters; it was calculated to hold 750, but too little room was allowed. There are about 25 free sittings. The rents of the let seats are low; some of them 1s. a year only.

The manse is a house that was built by the present incumbent in 1828; and it was purchased, and made a manse by the heritors, with concurrence of the presbytery, in March last. The glebe contains nearly 12 acres (Scotch,) and when let was rented at L. 22, 17s. 2d. The stipend is 16 chalders, half meal, half barley, with L. 10 communion element money.

There is a church or chapel built lately in the parish of Minnigaff, which will accommodate a portion of the northern end of this parish. A district has not yet been regularly assigned to it. The church was built by subscription, and arrangements are in progress for building a manse in the same way. The preacher (for there is regular public worship) is paid by the heritors and people. The greater part of his salary of L. 50 is paid by the Earl of Galloway, and James Blair, Esq. of Penninghame.

There is a church belonging to the Relief, and another to the Reformed Presbytery in Newtonstewart. But I am not informed how the ministers are paid, nor what is the amount of their stipends.

There is also in the parish a Roman Catholic Chapel, and the bishop resides in Glasgow.

The number of persons professedly belonging to the Established Church is 2723: families about 530. The number of Dissenters of all denominations, including Roman Catholics, is 883. The discrepancy between the sum of those and the census 1831, arises from a colony of above twenty families, established in the parish, on the small allotment system, since that date. Number of Dissenters and Seceders, 640; professed Episcopalians, 9; Roman Catholics, 184.

Divine service in the Established Church, considering the circumstances of the parish, is well attended.

The average number of communicants at the Established Church is rather above 700.

There is a Society for religious purposes managed by Dissenters, of the funds of which I have no knowledge. There is also a Society for the distribution of tracts (religious,) supported by subscription, and a collection in church when necessary. Under the management of the kirk-session, there is a Sunday school, and also

a regular distribution of Bibles to the poor : for which objects, collections are made in church, when necessary. There is a library for the benefit of the Sunday scholars of Penninghame and Minnigaff in common. The library is kept in Minnigaff.

The average amount of collections in church for religious and charitable purposes, besides the weekly collections for the poor, during four years, was very nearly L. 10 a year.

*Education.*—There are nine schools in this parish ; one parochial, three endowed, and the rest unendowed. All the branches commonly taught in parochial schools are taught in these, excepting the female schools, which are confined to the branches generally comprehended in female education. There is an infant school about to be opened on an endowment by the Earl of Galloway. The parochial schoolmaster has the legal salary of L. 34, 4s. 4d. and the legal accommodation of house and garden. Of the endowed schools, one has a salary of ten pounds a year from the Earl of Galloway, with a school-room and dwelling-house *rent free*. Another was endowed in the end of last century by Archibald M'Creddie, Esq. a benevolent gentleman, a native of Penninghame. He left L. 500, after having purchased an acre of land, and built a school-room and dwelling-house on it. Of the L. 500, L. 50 was paid as legacy duty, and the remainder (L. 450) was lent on bond for affording a yearly salary to the teacher. That bequest has been, and is, of the greatest importance to a district of the parish, which, being thinly inhabited, and at a great distance from any other school, would, but for it, have been destitute of the means of education for the children of the poor. The other endowed school was founded by the late Samuel Douglas, Esq. of Jamaica, who died in 1799, leaving his property under the management of executors named in his will ; and on their death, to the management of the ministers of Penninghame and Kirkmabreck, with the three oldest acting elders of each parish, trustees in all time coming. Some difficulties occurred in the management of the trust, and after some years of litigation, the trustees invested the property recovered by them, agreeably to the terms of the will, in lands in the parish of Ballantrae, Ayrshire. These lands yield a rental of between L. 200 and L. 300 a-year ; but they are burdened with some debt. After paying a master L. 80 a-year, and other expenses, the trustees are to nominate, on the foundation, as many boys at L. 20 a-year each for board, education, and clothing, as the funds will permit. The instruc-



tions given in the will on those points are very minute, some of them rather curious.

The trustees built an excellent house at the north end of Newtonstewart, agreeably to a plan furnished by John Henderson, Esq. architect, Edinburgh, on a piece of ground extending to three acres, presented to them by the Earl of Galloway, when Lord Garlies; and the school was opened in 1834.

Of the natives of this parish, it is believed there are none between six and fifteen who cannot write or read; nor any upwards of fifteen. But there are families from Ireland constantly settling, for a longer or shorter period, some of the heads of which cannot write or read, but they very generally express a desire to have their children taught. Some are prevented by poverty from sending their children to school; and others, who are Roman Catholics, may have scruples respecting Protestant schools.

There are great facilities for procuring education for the children of the poor in this parish. A number of children is recommended to be taught gratis, at the parish school, in terms of the act of Parliament. That number is fixed in proportion to the extent of the school, at the time of fixing it. The proportion proposed was about one to fifteen or sixteen. From ten to twelve are taught on a bequest by the late Sir William Douglas, Baronet. Ten are recommended to be taught gratis in the Douglas School, by the Trustees of the late Samuel Douglas, Esq. and a reasonable number is taught gratis at each of the endowed schools. The people do certainly value the benefits of education; but in the lower classes generally, the desire of procuring it for their children is not always so strong as could be wished. At the same time, they are always ready to admit its importance. The schools are judiciously enough placed, but from the great extent and shape of the parish, there are still some parts of it at a very inconvenient distance from any school. With one exception, those parts are not populous. Perhaps two additional schools would sufficiently accommodate the districts of the parish referred to.

*Library, &c.*—A subscription library was formed lately in Newtonstewart; where there is also a public reading-room.

A clothing-club has existed for some years, with much advantage to the industrious poor. The members pay 1d. or 2d. a-week, and at the end of the year they receive in clothes the accumulated amount, with their proportion of such contributions as may have been made to the box during the year.

*Poor.*—The average number of persons receiving regular parochial aid is about 67, viz. paupers, 50; orphans, deserted children, &c., 11; insane and weak-minded persons, 6. The average sum received by 50 paupers, is about L. 54 yearly; by 11 children, L. 32, 16s. do.; by 6 insane persons, L. 25, 18s. do. Those sums do not include occasional aid given to poor persons not on the roll, nor any extraordinary assistance given to the regular poor in particular seasons, nor in particular family circumstances, such as sickness, &c. which frequently occur. In addition to the amount of money distributed by the kirk-session, the poor belonging to the parish go round to each farm-house within a reasonable distance of their residence, once in the quarter, and receive meal or money. That observation applies particularly to the village poor. Those entitled to go receive a line from the kirk-session. The practice keeps up a good feeling between the different classes of the community, and tends to preserve the real character of charity.

The annual amount of collections in church for the relief of the poor, on the average of five years, was L. 75, 18s. 0½d. The sum of L. 6, 1s. yearly accrues to the poor, from bequests lodged in the national funds; and also the interest of another bequest of L. 100, at present yielding 4 per cent.;—in all L. 10, 1s. yearly. The proclamation of banns also yields a small sum to the poor's fund. The heritors contribute voluntarily for assisting the session in supporting insane persons; and in seasons when the wants of the poor are generally greater than usual, these voluntary contributions are greater also. In such seasons, those of the community who are able have always shown a willingness to assist liberally in any measures adopted for alleviating the wants of the poor. There is no regular assessment in this parish.

There is a disposition among the poor, particularly among the Scotch poor, to refrain from asking parochial relief, from a feeling that it is degrading; but it is to be regretted that such a feeling is becoming less and less perceptible. The exception implied respecting the Irish is confined to those lately come, or who continue in destitute circumstances. When any of them have acquired the means of keeping themselves and their families in any degree of comfort, so far as I have observed, they do not fail in manifesting a spirit of independence. In general, they come to this country so very destitute, that perhaps they may not seek nor estimate duly these means.

*Prison.*—There is no prison in this parish, but merely a temporary lock-up-house in the village of Newtonstewart.

*Fairs.*—There are four fairs held annually in Newtonstewart, in March, June, July, and October;—for what purpose now, it is not easy to say. There is a market every Friday, and a cattle-market on the second Friday of every month. There is a horse-market in February, one in June, and one in November.

*Markets.*—The weekly markets are not numerously attended, since the cattle-markets were regularly established. Much business is done at both the cattle and the horse-markets, and it seems to be increasing. From the situation of Newtonstewart, it is likely to increase much.

*Ale-houses.*—There are 38 houses licensed to sell beer and spirits in this parish, 34 in Newtonstewart; 2 in the north and 2 in the south end of the landward part of the parish. The effects of so many inns on the morals of the people, are certainly not beneficial. It is hoped, however, indeed I have no doubt, that drinking spirits to excess is diminishing in this parish and district.

*Fuel.*—In the landward part of the parish, the fuel used, with very few exceptions, is peats, of which there is abundance, and in different places of excellent quality. In the village, the poorer classes use very generally peats, with small quantities of coals occasionally. The higher classes use coals generally; but in many instances they prefer peats in kitchens. Coals are imported from England, commonly from Cumberland; and sometimes they are brought from Ayrshire and the neighbourhood of Glasgow, usually as ballast. The Scotch coals are preferred for particular purposes, as malting, &c. They are as high priced as the English coals, and they burn more quickly, so that they are not considered so economical. Formerly, smiths procured coals from Ayrshire, but now they get them sometimes from Liverpool. In Newtonstewart, a considerable quantity of wood has been used for fuel since saw-mills were erected in the neighbourhood. Peats are brought into Newtonstewart at from 2s. to 3s. a cart-load, about or fully a yard solid. Coals are sold at present from 14s. to 16s. per ton of twenty hundred weight. The ton was 24 cwt. before the change of weights and measures. Coals have been dearer of late years here; the price formerly for 24 cwt. was nearly what it is now for 20 cwt. Indeed, the price of coals has been and is inexplicably high. Wood, as fuel, is sold at various prices, according to the quality and circumstances: when cut into pieces of about a foot long, from 3s. to 4s. or 4s. 6d.

the cart-load, of about a yard solid; when carted at the expense of the purchaser from the plantations, uncut into short pieces, from 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. the cart load, as much as the carter chooses to put on his cart. These prices are for hard-wood; fir is cheaper.

#### GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Since the date of the former Statistical Account, the population of the parish has increased from about 2000 to 3461, and that of Newtonstewart from 900 to 2241.

I have endeavoured to make a comparison of the average of seven years, 1791—1797 inclusive, with the average of seven years 1831—1837, and the following is the result: Grain, taking into account, oats, barley and oatmeal, has risen between six and seven per cent. The boll of oatmeal of 10 stones of 14 lb. in this parish has risen 9d. only.

Rents of good arable land have become nearly triple of what they were during the former period. I refer to the rents of good land only, and as there is some bad or inferior land in every farm, the best arable land must be of more than three times its value during the former period.

The rent of sheep stock farms is nearly double of what it was in 1791—1797; these farms were also much higher rented during the war.

The proportion of the present rent and real value of arable good land to the value of the same land, during the earlier period, is a most satisfactory proof of great improvement, as the price of grain is now so nearly what it was then. Great improvement has been made in the roads since 1797.

The sheep stock of this parish was stated by Dr Boyd in the former Statistical Account to amount to about 9840; it is now less. It has been found advantageous to keep smaller stocks, and have them in a better state. Some farmers have reduced their numbers one-sixth or nearly one-fifth, and believe they have gained by doing so. The regular stock sheep are now rather under 7000 in number. Besides these, there are at present about 1100 feeding on turnips, and from 400 to 500 of Cheviot, Leicester, and other breeds, in the south end of the parish. The sheep stocks have been diminished by the increase of cultivation also. The stock sheep in value may average about L. 12 a score; during 1791—1797, they were, on an average, about L. 8 a score. From better management, and from diminishing the numbers, they are now of really more value at the same rate than they were then.

Galloway cattle bred in the parish are in the present year about twice the price they brought at the period 1791—1797. But their price varies so frequently, and so much, that it is not easy to fix an average.

The present system of husbandry continued, will effect much improvement in the parish, and that improvement will be much aided by draining both to a greater and less depth.

Sea shells were much used for manure formerly, and lime has succeeded them. They produced the most beneficial and enduring effects. After the lapse of many years they are dug up apparently little diminished in size, which seems to suggest that grinding them would be economical and profitable. If ground, the same quantity would produce much more effect, and in much less time, on a larger portion of land. It is rather singular that such a measure has not been adopted,—at least so far as I have been able to ascertain. The quantity of shells on the shore in the parish of Kirkinner is very great, and the grinding of them would be attended with little expense. It could be managed by a small mill, moved by water, wind, or a horse. The shells brought as manure to this parish contain  $\frac{9}{100}$  of mild lime; when burnt  $\frac{18}{100}$  of carbonate of lime, and  $\frac{55}{100}$  of caustic lime. The lime procured from them forms excellent mortar. It seems extremely probable that the old houses, castles, &c. were built with it. Great improvements might be made in the moss of Cree. The moss might be floated off by the river Cree; and it is extremely probable that the bottom of it would not be below, but rather above the adjoining land: it is considerably higher at present. The water for carrying it away could be raised by a steam-engine, or by a wheel moved by the river itself, in sufficient quantities, and at a moderate expense. The moss might be compressed for fuel also; and by that means the present exorbitant price of coals might be reduced. The gaining of 1200 or 1500 acres of land would be a great acquisition, in addition to the land that may be recovered from the sea, on the east side of the moss.

The encouragement of home manufacture, particularly of clothes from wool and flax, would unquestionably be conducive to industry and economy.

Nothing, however, can contribute so much to the comfort and happiness of the people as the knowledge and practice of religion; hence the great importance of giving all countenance and support to religious education from the earliest period of life.

*December 1838.*

# PARISH OF KIRKOWAN.

PRESBYTERY OF WIGTON, SYNOD OF GALLOWAY.

THE REV. ANTHONY STEWART, M. D. MINISTER. •

---

## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Extent, Boundaries.*—THIS parish is somewhat of a triangular form and of very considerable extent. Its length from north-east to south-west is about 15 miles. Its greatest breadth is between 6 and 7 miles; and its smallest breadth not much above one mile. On the north and east, it is bounded by the parish of Penninghame; on the south and east, by the parish of Kirkinner: on the south and west, by the parishes of Mochrum and Old Luce; and on the north and west, by that part of Ayrshire called Carrick.

The river Bladenoch runs along the north-east side of the parish, and forms a natural boundary between it and the parish of Penninghame. This river rises from a lake called Loch Macbeary, situated mostly between the two parishes of Kirkowan and Penninghame; but a small part of it extends into Carrick. This river, after a winding course of about 24 miles, empties itself into the Bay of Wigton.

Tarf is another river, on the south-west side of the parish, which rises from a bog in Carrick, and, after a course of about 12 miles, crosses the parish to the eastward, and joins Bladenoch at a little distance from the church of Kirkowan. †

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Parochial Registers.*—The session-books were destroyed by fire about fifty years ago. Hence the comparatively recent date of the commencement of those now existing. Births, marriages, and a list of communicants are regularly kept.

*Land-owners.*—These are, The Marquis of Bute; James Blair Esq. of Penninghame, M. P.; W. C. Hamilton, Esq. of Craighlaw; A. Murray, Esq. of Clugston; John M'Kie, Esq. of Bargalie; Stair H. Stewart, Esq. of Physgill; John Milligan, Esq.; Messrs M'Millan and Milroy.

\* Drawn up from Notes furnished by the Rev. Robert H. Whyte, Assistant to the Minister of the parish.

† Vide Old Statistical Account.

The real rental of the parish is about L. 5000.

*Mansion Houses.*—Craighlaw-House, the residence of W. C. Hamilton, Esq. is the only one worthy of notice in the parish. It is an old but commodious and comfortable house.

There is no traditionary or written account of antiquities that merits attention.

### III.—POPULATION.

The amount of Population in 1801 was	787	
1811	1006	
1821	1283	
1831	1374	
No. of families in the parish,		288
families chiefly employed in agriculture,		130
in trade, manufactures, or handicraft,		81
Amount of the population residing in villages, as ascertained in the course of a ministerial visitation in the summer of 1838,		549
Amount of the population then residing in the country,		829

### IV.—INDUSTRY.

#### *Agriculture.*—

The number of imperial acres in the parish, either cultivated or occasionally in tillage, is	6802½
(of this number 985½ acres belong to the Marquis of Bute.)	
Of acres constantly waste or in pasture,	23779
(of this number, 10287 belong to the Marquis of Bute.)	
Of acres that might be cultivated with a profitable application of capital,	628
under wood, (planted)	280
covered by lochs,	167

A decided improvement has taken place in agriculture since the date of last report. The roads are generally in a much better condition. Arable farms, in respect of subdivision, fencing, rotation of crops, and general management, are in an improved and improving state. Kirkowan being more a pastoral than an arable district, less attention is consequently paid to tillage, while its inland position presents an impediment to those who have a taste and desire to extend the sphere of cultivation.

*Live-Stock.*—The black-faced breed is held in the highest estimation by the holders of this description of stock, being found to suit the soil and climate better than the more valuable but less hardy breeds. The number of sheep which constitute the regular stock may be about 9000. Their merits in respect of wool, &c. are not inferior to those of other sheep in the adjacent parishes. The annual clip of wool averages about 1200 stones of 26 lbs. to the stone, value from 9s. to 17s. per stone.

The Galloway breed is all but without a rival in this parish. The land being not rich enough to develop the peculiar excellencies of this breed, farmers generally dispose of their sale stock when two years old. These are resold at Dumfries, thence driven southward, and after a year's feeding on the fertile plains of Eng-

land, find their way to the London market, where they are much esteemed.

*Manufactures.*—In 1822, a woollen mill was set agoing by the Messrs Milroy. It stands on the north bank of the Tarff, and at a convenient distance from the village. This is a thriving establishment, which affords employment and the means of subsistence to a considerable number of persons. The articles of manufacture are blankets, plain and pilot cloths, plaidings and flannels. The Tarff water, from its softness, is well adapted for the purposes of dyeing and milling. There is, too, such a declivity in its course for two miles above where it joins the Bladenoch, as would afford ample power for propelling machinery to a much greater extent.

*Quarries.*—There is a quarry of blue-stone, the greywacke of geologists, about a mile and a half east from the village, which affords an excellent material for building. Granite, in large blocks, is to be met with throughout the parish, and is much used for making lintels, door-posts, &c. to the houses, and serves the twofold end of increasing their stability and beauty. Slate (transition clay-slate) was discovered in one of the hills (Culvennan) about thirty years ago, but proved to be of such inferior quality, that it was soon abandoned.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The number of families attending the Established Church is 263; of families connected with the Secession and Relief, 21; of families connected with the Reformed Presbytery, 7; of Roman Catholic families, 13.

The teinds of the parish are exhausted, and wholly converted into a money stipend. The stipend of the parochial minister amounts to L. 292, 11s. 8d.

*Education.*—There are only two schools in the parish. The salary of the parochial schoolmaster is the minimum; and his school fees amount to about L. 35 a-year. He has also L. 5 a-year as postmaster.

*Poor.*—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid is 33; and the allowances to each, according to the necessities of the claimants, vary from L. 6, 10s. to 8s. per annum. The funds arise from church collections, yielding about L. 35 a year; from a voluntary assessment of the heritors to the amount of L. 25 a year; and a sum of L. 3, 1s. being the interest of a legacy.

*December 1838.*



## PARISH OF KIRKMAIDEN.

PRESBYTERY OF STRANRAER, SYNOD OF GALLOWAY.

THE REV. JOHN LAMB, MINISTER.

---

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

**THIS** is the most southerly parish of Scotland, forming the extreme boundary of that promontory which terminates in the Mull of Galloway, in Lat.  $54^{\circ} 39'$  north, and Long.  $5^{\circ}$  west.

*Name.*—There are various accounts of the origin of the name of the parish. In Symson's Description of Galloway, it is said to have been "so called, because the kirk was dedicated to the Virgin Mary, the print of whose knee is fabulously reported to be seen on a stone where she prayed at a place called Maryport, near to which there was a chapel long since but now wholly ruined." In Chalmers' Caledonia, it is said "to have obtained its appellation from the old parish church, which was dedicated to St Medan, to whom some other churches in this shire were consecrated, and was called Kirkmedan, from the name of the Saint. After being called by various forms of the name, Kirkmaiden at length became its settled appellation." There is a third account of the origin of the name, wholly traditional, viz. that three *maiden* ladies of the name of Adair, belonging to a religious establishment at Kilhilt, in the parish of Portpatrick, built, or left funds for building, three churches. One of these was built at the chapel now in Stranraer: another at Kirkmaiden, now annexed to the parish of Glasserton: and the third in this parish; and hence the parish is said to have taken its name.

No change appears to have taken place in its name or boundary since the Reformation. Antecedent to that event, though at what period is uncertain, these must have undergone various changes, as is evident from the number of places throughout the parish, which, from their names, the ruins of buildings called kirks, traces of burying grounds, &c. must have been the sites of places of worship. The chief of these are Kirkbride, Kilstay, Kildonnan, Kirkleish, and Kirkdryne or Kirkdrain. At the last of these places, was the residence of Mr John Callender,

the first Protestant minister of the parish, though his place of worship was about a mile distant, on the farm of Mull, the old church already mentioned, and said by Chalmers to be dedicated to St Medan.

*Extent and Boundaries.*—The length of the parish in a direct line may be about 10 miles, and 12 miles by the roads. Its breadth varies from somewhat less than  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to upwards of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles : and its area may be about 20 square miles. On the north north-west, it is united to the parish of Stonykirk by a boundary of about 2 miles in length. The sea is its boundary on all other sides.

*Topography.*—The form of the parish is very irregular and not easily described. The public road enters at the north-east corner, at a small modern building of antique construction, erected as a porter's lodge, or to commemorate the name of a place where, in old times, stood a kirk or chapel called Chapelrossan, or the chapel of the promontory. On proceeding a mile to the south-west, the mansion-house of Logan is seen on the right. It is small for the extent of the property, but handsome, commodious, and pleasantly situated. The road here separates, one line skirting the Bay of Luce to the village of Drumore ; the other leading to the Irish sea at the Bay of Portnessock. The parish here, to the extent of nearly 3 miles, is generally low and diversified with eminences, some of which are tastefully adorned with clumps of plantation. The village and harbour of Port Logan, in the south-east corner of Portnessock Bay, is a bare, bleak, unattractive-looking place in winter ; but affords a delightful summer residence for those who take pleasure in sea scenery and amusements. The breadth of the parish here is about a mile and a half. On leaving Port Logan, the road winds over a mountainous ridge, which stretches from sea to sea, a distance of more than two miles, descending rapidly into a narrow valley, also extending to the sea on both sides,—an extent of about a-mile and a-half. On the right in this vale, are seen the ruins of Castle Clanyard, in old times the residence of a family of the name of Gordon, a collateral branch of the House of Kenmure. Hence, a mile of up-hill road leads to the church, a building of the most mean appearance, and only remarkable for its elevated situation. The width of the parish here is considerably increased ; and about a mile and a half farther south, is at its greatest, nearly four miles.

*Mull of Galloway.*—The extremity of the Mull of Galloway lies south-south-east from the church, at a distance of about six

miles. The road now takes a more central direction. To the west, the land is bleak and mountainous; to the east, it slopes down to the sea, and constitutes the most fertile portion of the parish. Nearly opposite the church on this side are situated the old castle, village, and harbour of Drumore.

The point of the Mull is a peninsula of a mile and a quarter in length, by a quarter of a mile in breadth. It is joined to the mainland by a low and narrow isthmus formed by two small bays called East and West Tarbets. The hill forming the promontory, though bleak, rugged, and on its south-west side an almost perpendicular rock from its very summit, has always been regarded as an interesting object by those who are fond of looking on nature in rude grandeur. A handsome light-house, lately erected, with its establishment, has added greatly to the pleasure of the visitant, and converted what before was merely grand, into what is both grand and beautiful in a high degree. From the balcony of the light-house may be seen, in a clear day, the lofty peaks of Cumberland;—the Isle of Man in all its extent; the coast of Ireland from the mountains of Morne to Fairhead; the highest mountains of the counties of Dumfries, Kirkcudbright, Ayr, and the towering Paps of Jura in Argyllshire. Though the picturesque and striking features of the coast are nowhere seen to more advantage than from the Mull-hill, there are other and higher eminences from which an equally good view of distant objects may be obtained. The chief of these are Montlokowre, Bunman, Cairnhill, Cairn of Dolt, and Grennan hill. The highest summit in the parish is probably somewhat under 900 feet above the level of the sea.

*Bays, &c.*—The bays are numerous, and generally succeeded by a promontory of the same name. Beginning on the north-east, and going round the coast, we have, 1. The bays of Chapelrossan; 2. Balgown; 3. New England or Myroch; 4. Tirally; 5. Grennan; 6. Curghie; 7. Drumore; 8. Cairngarroch; 9. Maryport; 10. Portonkill; 11. East Tarbet; 12. West Tarbet; 13. Port Corkrie; 14. Clanyard; 15. Portnessock; 16. Port Gill. The chief headlands are Killiness Point and Mull of Galloway on the east; and on the west Crammag, Gounies, and Mull of Logan.

The only harbours are Port Logan, in the bay of Portnessock, on the western coast, and Drumore on the east. At both these places, besides a quay where vessels may lie in safety, there is good anchorage in the bays. Were the former so constructed that vessels could enter at low-water—and this could be done at no very

great expense, it would be most useful as a place of refuge when storms suddenly arise in the channel. As constructed at present, it is difficult to prevent either of these harbours filling up with sand and gravel. In several of the bays above enumerated, small vessels may, in fine weather, and with attentive management, be loaded or discharged; but the risk is so great, from change of wind and weather, that few are willing to enter them.

*Caves, &c.*—The caves, caverns, and fissures along the western coast are numerous; many of them extensive and capacious when entered; though so strait at the mouth as scarcely to admit a single person creeping on hands and knees; and the entrances of many are situated in places very difficult of access. Symson speaks of one of them as a rock “from which there is a continual dropping both in summer and winter; which drop hath this quality, that, if any person be troubled with the chincough, he may be infallibly cured by holding up his mouth and letting the drop fall therein.” In this cave, the dropping still continues to wear a hollow in the rock, on which falls, and to enlarge a stalactite in the roof above; but the belief in its healing virtue has long ago nearly, if not entirely disappeared.

Surrounded on three sides by the sea, the climate is considerably equalized; neither so intensely cold in winter, nor so hot in summer, as in more inland districts. As a proof of this, the ploughman may be seen in the fields for eight or ten days after the soil is completely frost-bound in the interior parts of the county. Consumption is a disease supposed to be rarely originated in the parish. Cancer is not unfrequent, and has been ascribed to the too plentiful use of dried salt-fish. Asthmatic subjects have found the climate favourable to their malady.

*Springs.*—There are several very copious springs of fine water, their temperature is about 48° Fahrenheit. Chalybeates are common, and one of a peculiar character was, a few years ago, discovered oozing out of a blue clay in the midst of moss, which speedily attained a great, but, from reckless application, a short-lived celebrity. It has not been analysed.

*Zoology.*—There is little peculiar in the zoology of the parish. The fox and the badger, formerly common, are now rarely met with. Otters inhabit the caverns on the western shore; and the rocks are tenanted by the common sea-gull, the Cornish chough (*Pyrrhocorax Graculus*), the shag (*Phalacrocorax Graculus*), the little razor-bill, the raven, several species of hawk, and flocks of

pigeons. About forty years ago, a pair of eagles had their eyrie on one of the precipitous cliffs near Dunman; but the ravages which they committed among the lambs roused the farmers to take revenge by setting fire to their domicile, and thus banishing the predators. An individual of the bee-eater species (*Merops apiaster*), was shot in Logan garden in the summer of 1832.

The coast abounds with various species of fish; the most common are cod, the red or rock variety of which is highly prized; sythe, and especially the coal-fish (*Merlangus carbonarius*), which has no fewer than five different names among the fishermen, according to its different stages of growth; whiting, mackerel, and mullet are at times abundant; skate and other flat-fish, occasionally including turbot and sole, and red and grey gurnard, are frequently taken. The common hake, the dog-fish, smooth hound, (*Mustelus lævis*), are found accompanying the shoals of herrings. The gabboch, (*Scyllium catulus*), braize, smelt, (*Atherina hepsetus*), are not uncommon. The Cornish sucker (*Lepadogaster Cornubiensis*), the lump-fish (*Cyclopterus lumpus*), *Morhua barbata*, here named good-speed; dragonet (*Callionymus lyra*), the stang-fish, (*Trachinus draco*), are also met with. The angler (*Lophius piscatorius*), is frequently cast ashore; and there was found in 1837 a single specimen of a small silvery fish, with rows of dots along its sides, correctly described by Pennant under the name of the *Sheppy argentine*.

Oysters of a large size are met with, both on the western shore and in the Bay of Luce; but beds sufficiently productive to be dredged have not been found. Lobsters and crabs are abundant, and are sometimes taken by fishermen from Ireland for the Dublin market.

*Botany.*—Forming the south-west point of Scotland, this parish is of great interest to the Scottish botanist, as presenting a vegetation differing considerably from that of the east coast, and closely resembling that of the neighbouring coasts of England and Ireland.

From the crumbling nature of the rocks, they are covered with vegetation. On the cliffs along the west side, especially south of Dunman, the highest, we meet with abundantly,

Euphorbia Portlandica	Limbarda erithmoides	Atriplex portulacoides
Crithmum maritimum	Pyrethrum maritimum	Apium graveolens;
Carlina vulgaris	Statice spathulata	

And at one place among the debris at the foot of the cliffs, Dr Graham, Professor of Botany in Edinburgh, discovered in August

1835 the *Ononis reclinata*; this being the only station yet known for this plant in Britain.

Where the ground is marshy, we find

<i>Enanthe pimpinelloides</i>	<i>Scirpus Savii</i>	<i>Schœnum nigricans</i>
<i>Carex extensa</i> and <i>distans</i>	<i>Juncus maritimus</i>	<i>Pulicaria dysenterica</i> .

On the gravelly beach,

<i>Lithospermum maritimum</i>	<i>Atriplex laciniata</i>	<i>Crambe maritima</i> ;
-------------------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------

On the grassy banks overhanging the rocks, we find

<i>Oxytropis uralensis</i>	<i>Jasione scabiosa</i>	<i>Scilla verna</i>
<i>Astragalus hypoglottis</i>	<i>Daucus carota</i> , v. <i>maritimus</i> .	

Soon after passing the East Tarbet, towards the north, the coast becomes flat; where sandy, producing abundantly,

<i>Raphanus maritimus</i>	(and more rarely) <i>Orchis pyramidalis</i> and <i>Brassica</i>
<i>Polygonum Raii</i>	<i>monensis</i> ; (where gravelly), <i>Glaucium lu-</i>
<i>Eryngium maritimum</i>	<i>teum</i> and <i>Vicia sylvatica</i> .
<i>Convolvulus soldanella</i> .	

Also occasionally on the banks near the sea,

<i>Verbascum thlaspi</i>	<i>Hypericum Androsæmum</i>
<i>Convolvulus sepium</i> .	

Where the soil has been undisturbed are found,

<i>Ulex Europea</i> and <i>nanus</i>	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>
<i>Erica cinerea</i> and <i>tetralix</i> .	

In the inland marshes we find,

<i>Hypericum Elodes</i>	<i>Helosciadium nodiflorum</i>
<i>Alisma ranunculoides</i>	<i>Lythrum Salicaria</i> .

In the cultivated fields,

<i>Siachys arvensis</i>	<i>Lamium intermedium</i>
-------------------------	---------------------------

*Plantations.*—The plantations are mostly confined to the vicinity of Logan House, and are generally in a thriving state, and contain trees of considerable magnitude, considering the warfare they have to wage with the storms, and the copious sprinklings of spray they must frequently submit to from the sea. The most suitable for the climate—for there is soil for every variety—seem to be the ash, mountain-ash, sycamore, elm, beech, birch, and Huntingdon willow among the deciduous trees. Pinaster, white spruce, Scotch fir, *Pinus montana*, holly and yew among the evergreens. Where well sheltered from the sea, many other kinds also grow freely.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Symson's description of Galloway, and Chalmers's Caledonia, contain the only record of this parish worthy of notice. The latter says, "The parish church of Kirkmaiden belonged to the abbot and monks of Soulseat, which enjoyed the rectorial revenues, while the cure was served by a vicar. In Bagimont's Roll, it is stated that, in the reign of James V. the vicarage of this church was fixed at L. 2, 13s. 4d. At the Reformation, the rectorial revenues were let to William Adair of Kinhilt, by the abbot and

monks of Soulseat, for the yearly payment of 300 merks and 100 bolls of bear, small measure. The church of Kirkmaiden was vested in the King by the act of 1587. A portion of the revenues of this church was assigned as a stipend to the Protestant minister of the parish, and the remainder was afterwards granted by Charles I. in 1630, as part of the stipend for the minister of the newly established parish of Portpatrick, in which grant the King reserved to himself and his successors the patronage of the church of Kirkmaiden. But King James had heretofore, in September 1602, granted the five merk land of Drumore, with the patronage of the church of Kirkmaiden, to Ninian Adair of Kinhilt, whose son Robert obtained a ratification of this grant in the Parliament of 1641. Symson says, in his account of Galloway, "The King's Majesty is patron of the parish of Kirkmaiden, although the lairds of Kinhilt pretend a right thereto, and are in possession." The Earl of Stair (as proprietor of the lands of Drumore) has long been the patron of this parish. As the old church of Kirkmaiden was situated in a very inconvenient situation in the southern extremity of the parish, the parishioners gave in a representation to the General Assembly, praying for a new church in a more central situation. This was referred to Parliament, and the Parliament in October 1639 remitted the prayer to the commissioners to be appointed for the plantation of kirks. The desire of the petitioners was granted, and a new church was built in a more central situation." The following extract from the presbytery records gives a somewhat different account of the removal of the church to its present site.

"*Presbytery at Kirkmaiden, the 10th day of July 1638.*—Upon the whilk day, the parochiners of Kirkmaiden presented ane supplication, desiring that, in respect their kirk was builded at the most extreme part of the paroch, and lay very inconveniently, that they would appoint some more convenient place.—Whilk the brethren having considered, thought it reasonable, and assigned a part in Corghie, in the midst of the parish, for building a new kirk—desiring the Lords of Council, by petition, to grant their letters to further the same, and to ratify the same in tyme coming." The Session records say, "that the building of the church commenced in 1638. On the 5th of March in that year, the National Covenant was renewed at Edinburgh, and by order subscribed by all the congregations within the kingdom." It was subscribed at Kirkmaiden the 25th March in that year, and from this circumstance

the kirk was long called, (supposed by way of sobriquet,) *Kirk covenant*.

*Eminent Characters.*—Under this head, may be mentioned, Andrew M'Douall, Lord Bankton, one of the Judges of the Court of Session, and author of "Institutes of the Laws of Scotland." He was son of Robert M'Douall, Esq. of Logan, and Sarah Shaw, daughter of Sir John Shaw of Greenock, and was born at Logan, about the year 1685, and died at Bankton, in East Lothian, in 1760. Lord Bankton was thrice married; but none of his marriages was productive of children. His character as a lawyer and a judge was only equalled by his character in all the relations of life. The estate of Bankton, which had previously belonged to the celebrated Colonel Gardiner, descended, on his Lordship's death, to the head of his family, and still belongs to the M'Doualls of Logan. (*Murray's Literary History of Galloway.*)

Robert M'Douall, Admiral of the Blue Squadron in his Majesty's Fleet, and who had formerly held a similar rank in the Portuguese service, was the son of Alexander M'Douall, and Mary Gordon in Portnessock; born in 1729, and died at Stranraer 1826.

*Land-Owners.*—The land-owners of this parish were formerly numerous; at present, there are only four, and the property of one of them is too small to entitle him to a voice in any parochial matter. Their names and proportions of rent, according to the old Scots valuation, are as follows: Major M'Douall of Logan, L. 3181, 15s.; the Earl of Stair, L. 853, 10s.; John M'Taggart, Esq. of Ardwell, L. 358, 15s.; Captain Maitland of Freuch, L. 6. Total, L. 4400.

*Parochial Registers.*—The following table contains a list of all the ministers of this parish since the Reformation; extracted from the prefatory notes to the existing session-books.

	Name.	Where from.	Settlement.	Removal.
Episcopal.	John Callendar,	Falkirk,	-	Died 1639
	Alexander Turnbull, A. and S.	Tranent,	1638,	Do. 1658
	James Wilson,	Paisley,	1660,	Ejected 1662
	Thomas Ireland,	Weem,	1662,	-
	James M'Gill,	Teviotdale,	1665,	-
	David Carstairs,	Fife,	1667,	-
	George Young,	Stranraer,	1682,	-
	James Wilson,	again settled,	1689,	Died 1691
	Samuel Kelso,	Ireland, Officiated two years not settled.	-	-
	Alexander Marshal,	Falkirk,	1697, removed to Kirkcolum.	-
	James Monteith,	Glasgow,	1699,	Died 1714
	John Anderson,	Do.	1716,	Do. 1736
	James M'Ferrand,	Greenock,	1738,	Do. 1763
John Coulter,	Crawfordjohn,	1764, Removed to Stranraer.	-	



Robert Callendar,	-	Falkirk,	1772,	Died 1812
Robert Cooper, A. and S.		Clarg, Pennin-		
		hame,	1800,	Do. 1801
Thomas Young, A. and S.		Redgorton, Perth-		
		shire,	1802,	Do. 1818
James French, A. and S.		Stonykirk,	1817,	Do. 1826
John Lamb,		Yester, E. Lo-		
		thian,	1826,	-

N. B. Those marked A. and S. were settled as Assistant and Successor.

The earliest of the session records commences in 1699, in the time of Mr Monteith. In Mr Anderson's book, reference is made to that of Mr Turnbull, who was the second minister; but that book, though it appears to have been in existence in Mr Anderson's time, (1716), has been long since lost. From Mr Anderson's settlement to the present time, the session records, and registers of births, deaths, and marriages are continuous. They are, in some instances, written by the minister, but generally by the session-clerk.

*Antiquities.*—The traces of ancient buildings are numerous; but their history is either altogether lost or involved in traditionary fable. Dunman, a high rocky hill overhanging the sea, at the south-west corner of the parish, has on its summit the remains and distinct traces of a fortification. It is said to have been a place of great strength in the days of the Picts. On another less elevated promontory, half a mile north of Dunman, are also distinct traces of a place of strength. A round tower, of about 57 feet, has formed the principal building. In front of this building, there has been a fosse or ditch, and at a little distance outside of this a circular wall. A short way south of Dunman, are two small green eminences, called "*the auld Kilns,*" situated amid surrounding heath. These, tradition says, were used by the Picts in preparing their mysterious beverage *heather crap ale*. Farther to the south, there is another green spot named the *Peat Knowe*, where it is said some ceremony was gone through for banishing an epidemic disease called *burying the peat*. The promontory forming the Mull-head is said to have been the last retreat of the Picts; and here, when no longer able to withstand their enemies, the last feeble remains of them are said to have leapt or been forced into the sea; and a tradition, illustrative of the tenacity with which they kept the secret of brewing their ale, still exists in the parish. When all were in the sea, except a father and son, they were offered their lives, on condition they would reveal this secret. The father promised to consider of this proposal, after they had precipitated the son over the rocks. This was done, and he then said the secret remains with me alone, and will die with me, and immediately leapt over. At

the neck or isthmus of this promontory are the traces of a double line of fortification, extending from sea to sea. There is a small cave, though one of no little note formerly in the parish, on the south-east coast, between the bays of Port-ankill and East Taret, called by Chalmers St Medan's Cave; together with a pool in the adjoining rock, called the well of the Co', or the chapel well,—for the place often goes under the name of the Chapel. From the superstitious observances connected with this spot, it seems likely that it was the abode of some Druid or recluse, in times prior to Christianity; and in later times, it might also have been the retreat of some monk, or disciple of St Medan, who would probably take advantage of its locality and reputation to serve his own interested views. To bathe in the well, as the sun rose on the first Sunday of May, was considered an infallible cure for almost any disease, but was particularly efficacious, in the recovery of "back-gane bairns." And till no very remote period, it was customary for almost the whole population of the parish to collect at this spot, on the first Sabbath of May, which was called Co' Sunday, to bathe in the well; to leave their gifts in the cave, and to spend the day in gossiping or amusements.

The well is a natural cylindrical hole in the solid rock, about four feet in diameter, and six feet deep, filled with loose stones, to about half its depth. Round its mouth are three or four small holes, which were used for bathing the hands and eyes, while the large one was used for the body generally. There is no spring; the well is kept full by the surf breaking over the rock at full flood and spring-tides. The inner apartment of the chapel or Co' is a natural cavity of the rock. The outer is of rude mason work, with a door and window. The walls are now greatly dilapidated, and the roof long gone. At its best, it must have been a *mortifying* residence. Strangers, on a first visit, are still reminded of the custom of leaving a present or gift at departure. A pin, a blade of grass, or a pebble from the beach, are now considered sufficient—though, no doubt, in the days of our hermit, more substantial offerings were looked for and bestowed.

The ruins of buildings of a more recent period are of those mentioned by Symson, namely, the old house of Logan; Castle Clanyard and Drumore. Among the antiquities of the parish, may be included the church-bell, said to have been at one time the dinner-bell of Castle Clanyard, and to have been brought to that place from Kenmure. The inscription upon it is, "*Nicolaius Ramsa Dominus*

*de Dalhuissi me fieri fecit Ano Dni Millesimo quingentesimo xxxiiii. IHS Maria Jhone Morison*—from which it appears that it was made in the year 1534, for Nicholas Ramsay, the grandfather of the first Earl of Dalhousie.

*Modern Buildings.*—The only modern buildings worthy of remark are the quay at Portlogan, erected by the late proprietor of Logan, at a very considerable expense; and the Light-house, erected a few years ago, at the extreme point of the Mull of Galloway. Vessels bound from the English coast to the north sometimes mistook the Bay of Luce for the Channel, and did not discover their mistake till they were aground on the sands at its head, where it is not always practicable to get off. This mistake, except in very foggy weather, the light effectually prevents.

### III.—POPULATION.

The number of the inhabitants in 1790 was 1380; of families, 285. In 1801, the number was 1613, of whom 742 were males, and 871 females; families, 335. In 1811, the number was 1788, of whom 834 were males, and 954 females; families, 357. In 1821, the number was 2210, of whom 1090 were males, and 1120 females; families, 442. In 1831, the population was 2051, of whom 973 were males, and 1078 females; families, 429.\*

The population residing in villages is about,	- - -	500
in the country,	- - -	1550
The average number of births for the last 7 years is,	- - -	46
deaths,	- - -	20
marriages,	- - -	10
The average number of persons under 15 years, was	- - -	813
No. of families chiefly employed in agriculture,	- - -	192
trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	- - -	94
The average number of persons betwixt 15 and 30,	- - -	527
30 and 50,	- - -	396
50 and 70,	- - -	249
upwards of 70,	- - -	65
Children in each family,	- - -	3
Number of houses inhabited,	- - -	407
Number of fatuous persons 4—deaf and dumb 4.	- - -	

The inhabitants who are descended from native ancestors are rather remarkable for size and strength. This was said to have been conspicuous, when the Kirkmaiden company of volunteers was reviewed along with those of other parishes. The habits of the people with regard to the cleanliness of their cottages, cannot be much commended. There is little peculiar in their dress. The home-spun *linsey woolsey* gown, and blue cloth coat, are still produced by a few thrifty housewives; and although linen webs are

\* The cause of the decrease at the last date was that, in 1821, the quay at Port Logan was being built, where upwards of 200 people, not belonging to the parish, were employed.

not now, as formerly, made up for the market, they are still manufactured in considerable quantity for home use. Their style and manner of dress, on the whole, is decent, neat, and substantial. The ordinary food of the peasantry is oatmeal porridge and milk, when milk can be got, for breakfast; for dinner, potatoes and salt-herrings, or other kinds of fish,—and with the better economists, pork or bacon differently prepared; and potatoes and milk or herrings to supper. The bread is oatcakes or scones, composed of potatoes and oatmeal, or more rarely, of potatoes and wheaten or barley-flour. The difficulty of procuring milk where the dairy system prevails, has perhaps been the principal cause of the too frequent use of tea and its accompaniment *loaf bread*,—considerable quantities of both being consumed even by the poorest; and it is to be feared too many forego the more substantial fare which the pig they feed would furnish, to indulge in this favourite repast.

The people enjoy in a considerable degree the comforts and advantages of society, and seem contented with their situation and circumstances. Their secluded situation does not present many opportunities of cultivating their intellectual powers. Their attainments in religious knowledge are respectable, and their general demeanour is peaceable and orderly. Poaching in game is occasionally followed by a few individuals. Smuggling, which at one time was almost the sole occupation of many of the principal inhabitants, is now entirely abandoned.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture and Rural Economy.*—The parish may contain about 11,971 imperial acres, which may be thus classed, and the value of the gross annual produce stated.

Imp. ac.			
240 wood,	-	-	L. 40 0 0
129 roads, about 43 miles,			
1400 rocky moor and moss,	-	-	350 0 0
6812 pasture,	-	-	4965 0 0
512 wheat,	-	-	2662 0 0
1867 oats,	-	-	4032 0 0
155 bear.	-	-	557 0 0
375 rye-grass hay,	-	-	335 10 0
50 meadow hay,	-	-	75 0 0
815 potatoes,	-	-	4665 5 0
116 turnips,	-	-	460 0 0
<hr/>			<hr/>
11,971			L. 17541 15 0

All the land is already in tillage or laid down in pasture that could be profitably cultivated, except a considerable breadth of moss, now almost unproductive of peats. This, if drained and sub-

jected to a proper rotation of crops, might, at least, in the form of meadow or permanent pasture, be made to assume a more seemly aspect. There was at one time a small common attached to the churchyard; but it has long ago merged into the surrounding property. The woods are under the management of a judicious and experienced forester. The yearly thinnings are very useful for many farming purposes. They consist principally of ash, beech, and larch.

*Rent of Land.*—The average rent of arable land may be about 14s. per acre. The farmers are not in the practice of grazing cattle and sheep, except what belong to themselves.

*Rate of Wages—Prices.*—The wages of ploughmen are at the rate of L. 9 per annum; of maid-servants, L. 2, 5s. for the half-year, with board. Married men servants, or *benefit men*, get L. 9 of money; 5 Galloway bolls of potatoes, and two bushels planted; 52 stones of 17½ lbs. oatmeal; 2 tons or 48 cwt. coals, with house and garden. A day-labourer's wages in summer are 1s. 2d.—in winter 1s. Females employed at out-door work receive 6d. or 7d. per day. Reapers' wages are 1s. 6d. per day without victuals; men are frequently hired for the harvest season, and receive L. 2 with board. Masons' wages are 2s. or 2s. 6d.; joiners 2s. per day, without victuals. A rood of mason work, furnishing all materials, will cost at an average about L. 3, for labour only L. 1, 10s. A good box-cart costs about L. 7, 10s.; an iron plough from L. 3, 10s. to L. 4; an iron drill plough about L. 3.

*Live-Stock.*—The few sheep-walks in the parish are stocked with the black-faced breed of sheep. The farmers generally keep a few of the Leicester breed for their domestic use. The cattle reared are principally of the Galloway breed, and more attention seems to have been lately given to its purity. There are in the parish several large dairies, in which the Ayrshire breed are kept and reared, or a cross between that and the Galloway bull, whose progeny generally take his likeness.

*Husbandry.*—Although the agriculture of the parish cannot be said to be behind that of the neighbouring districts, it has made little progress, except on a few farms, during the last twenty years, and is susceptible of great improvement. What the land chiefly requires, is thorough draining, followed-up with the subsoil plough. A great proportion of the soil, resting on a stiff retentive *till*, is soaked, or, as the farmers express it, soured, with stagnant water during winter; and in dry summers, where clayey, it becomes un-

productively hard,—where light and peaty, too loose for the roots of grain to retain their hold during high winds. Were the till broken up, and the water allowed to sink and run off by drains, the clayey soils would become more friable, the peaty, with a gradual admixture of the subsoil, would acquire a more adhesive texture, lime and manures would tell with more effect, and all would undoubtedly be rendered doubly productive. This improvement, though great and permanent, would also be expensive, and would be most effectually promoted by the landlord defraying the greater part of the expense,—seeing it judiciously executed, and receiving interest for the outlaid capital in the shape of additional rent.

Thorough draining, consisting of shallow drains running parallel to each other, at the distance of 15 or 18 feet, has been introduced to a limited extent with the most beneficial results. The drains are cut about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet deep, and filled to within 14 or 16 inches from the surface with small stones. The expense of opening and filling such, exclusive of the stones, is about 6d. per rood.

The land in tillage is managed in different rotations of cropping; the six-shift seems to be the best. The order is as follows: 1. oats after grass; 2. green crop of turnip or potatoes; 3. wheat or other white crop; 4. grass for hay or pasture, and the remaining years in pasture.

The duration of leases, where these exist, is generally nineteen years. Those last given seem favourable to the occupiers; who are furnished with suitable farm-buildings, and receive a liberal allowance of lime; and whatever drainings they judge necessary are opened to them, free of expense.

With regard to farm-buildings, there is great room for improvement. Very few contain accommodation sufficient to allow of the most profitable farm management, and many of them are in a decayed and ruinous condition. The greater part of the parish is enclosed, but, except in the vicinity of Logan, with insufficient fences. These consist of stone walls, turf with whins on the top, hedge and ditch. Many of the first are badly built, or built with bad materials; the second are not kept closely furnished with furze; the last, when properly executed, are by far the best, effectually securing the enclosure from the first, and soon after affording shelter besides. The quicks, consisting of thorn and beech, are planted in a facing of stone about three feet in height, banked behind with the earth taken out of the ditch,—which bank is also planted with sets of the hardier willows. Timber trees are

planted in the hedgerows, but seldom with good effect; unless where sheltered, they rarely get beyond the stature of a bush, and are injurious to the fence, without being ornamental to the landscape.

The greatest and most striking improvement that has recently been made in the parish, is on the roads. These, only a few years ago, were in a scandalous state, carelessly formed, or in many places not formed at all, and as carelessly kept. Many old lines have lately been improved, new lines of considerable length have been or are in the course of being formed, and almost all kept comparatively in excellent repair. The fund for upholding the roads is derived from the conversion of Statute labour. The assessment for this purpose is L. 1, 10s. Scots in the hundred pounds Scots of valued rent, and 2s. 6d. from householders and mechanics, amounting in whole to L. 75 Sterling. There is no turnpike road in the parish.

There are many obstacles existing to agricultural improvement. These arise from want of capital or enterprise in some instances,—the want of encouragement by the principal proprietors,—the want of sufficient fences and suitable accommodation in farm-buildings,—and, above all, the want of leases, or of such as last longer than a year; for it will generally be found that “short tacks make thriftless tenants.” The most of these obstacles, however, arise from peculiar circumstances in which the principal proprietors are placed, and it is confidently expected, that, along with these circumstances, they will soon be removed.

*Quarries.*—There is an extensive body of slate-rock in the parish, which has been wrought in several places to a considerable extent, but not perhaps to a depth sufficient to obtain the article so good as it might otherwise yield. These quarries have, for some years past, been abandoned.

*Fisheries.*—Fishing is not followed after with that industry and enterprise which the favourable locality would lead one to expect. Few make it their regular occupation; although many of the inhabitants engage in it occasionally, both with net and line, and sometimes with very encouraging success. As many as fifteen cart loads of *blockins* or of coal-fish have been taken with the drag-net, during a single tide. The herrings, after having nearly abandoned the coast for years, are again promising to revisit it, and the people are now well prepared with nets to receive them. In connection with fisheries, Logan fish-pond deserves notice, as it is an object of attraction to all strangers visiting the parish. It is situated on

the north side of the bay of Portnessock, and is formed by a circular excavation from the solid rock, connected, by a natural archway, with the sea. This opening is shut up with an uncemented stone-wall, which effectually secures the prisoners, and allows a free entrance and exit to the tide. The pond is always kept well-stocked, especially with cod, lythe and coal-fish, and a few flounders. A salmon, red and grey gurnard, and some other small species have sometimes, by way of ornament and variety, been introduced; but the salmon lives only a very limited period, and the smaller soon become the prey of the larger inmates. On descending by a rude stair to the surface of the water at a large stone-flag, the fishes forthwith repair to this spot, where many of them, with their heads above water, are eager to receive from the hand of their keeper their usual treat of limpets. On such occasions, the keeper may be seen lifting one into her lap, putting a limpet into its mouth, patting it on the head, and returning it to its native element. It appears somewhat uncomfortable and impatient when put through this ceremony, but does not resent the liberty she takes with it, by any subsequent pet or shyness. She firmly believes that they not only *hear*, but that they can distinguish *her voice* from that of a stranger, and she relates the following occurrence as one of her proofs: During a very high tide lately, the sea so injured her house, that she was obliged to leave it, and reside for some days in the village of Port-Logan. Part of the wall surrounding the pond was forced into it, several of the fishes were killed or hurt, and the rest so alarmed, that they remained at the bottom, and would not venture to the surface, till she uttered her wonted call, when they immediately repaired to their feeding station as before. Being on such a familiar footing with her finny charge, it is not to be wondered, that she should have a struggle with her feelings, when consigning one of them to the care of the cook.

*Manufactures.*—Kelp was formerly manufactured in considerable quantities, but, owing to its low price, is now entirely given up.

*Navigation.*—There are four small sloops belonging to Drumore, of 16, 25, 29, and 37 tons burthen respectively. They are employed in exporting farm-produce, and importing lime and coals, or otherwise engaged in the coasting trade.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Town.*—There is no market-town in the parish. The nearest is Stranraer, at a distance of about 18 miles from the



church. A carrier from each of the villages of Drumore and Port-Logan goes regularly to Stranraer, once and sometimes twice weekly. Penny post-offices are established, at regular distances, on the road between Stranraer and Drumore. The mail is conveyed daily by a car, carrying also passengers, to Port-Logan, and is forwarded by a person on foot to Drumore.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church is situated in the centre of the parish; but, being six miles distant from the extremities, it is inconveniently placed for the aged, infirm, and even the hard-working labourer. The building of it was commenced in 1638, but owing, it is said, to some dispute among the heritors, it was not completed till several years afterwards. The walls and roof are substantially good, the seating is in a state of great disrepair; but as it accommodates only 275 sitters, its worst fault is its want of room. None of the seats are rented. There is a small gallery occupied by the residing heritor and his immediate dependents; the rest of the seats are apportioned to the different farms. Few of the farmers, however, have sufficient accommodation for their own families exclusive of their servants and labourers; and there is none whatever for the inhabitants of the two villages.

The manse, having become partly ruinous and very uncomfortable, was taken down, and a commodious and substantial one was built in 1837. The extent of the glebe, including garden and site of houses, is 6 acres, and its value about L. 1, 6s. per acre. The amount of stipend is L. 137, 13s. 6d. Sterling in money, 5½ Galloway bolls of bear, and 75 imperial stones of oatmeal. L. 5, 7s. 8d. is received from the Exchequer, to raise it to the minimum amount. There is no Dissenting or other chapel in the parish. It is proposed to erect a church, somewhere between this and the neighbouring parish of Stony Kirk,—to which a parish, containing a population of 1000, may be attached.

There are about 88 Roman Catholics, and 28 Protestant Dissenters in the parish; the remaining 1935 of the population belong, professedly at least, to the Established Church.

The attendance upon public worship at the Established Church has been improving for a considerable time past, and would undoubtedly be greater were the church larger. The inhabitants may not be a church-going people; but this arises principally from the want of accommodation; few who have sittings for themselves have sittings for their children also. They are thus prevented from bringing them to church, and training them up to church-

going habits. The average number of communicants is about 400.

There is, at present, no Society for religious purposes. A parochial Association is on the eve of being formed for promoting the four schemes of the General Assembly. The average amount of yearly collections for religious purposes is L. 5.

*Education.*—There are three schools regularly kept in the parish; two situated for the accommodation of the children at the extremities; one on the parochial establishment in the centre of the parish. English, writing, and arithmetic, are taught in all. Geography and mathematics are also taught in the school, at the north end of the parish; and these branches, with French and Latin, are taught in the parochial school. The parochial teacher's salary is L. 25, 13s.—with the legal accommodation of dwelling-house, school-house, and garden. One of the other teachers receives L. 4, being the interest of a sum bequeathed for the education of poor children. The third teacher is entirely dependent on school fees. The expense of education is 2s. per quarter for English reading and writing, and 3s. for the higher branches. The children of paupers are taught gratis. The average number attending the parochial school is about 65; and 90 at the other two. There are no parts of the parish so distant from the schools as to prevent attendance; and the people are so alive to the benefits of education, that there are none above six years of age who cannot read, or above 15 who cannot also write. There are, indeed, four or five adult individuals who cannot read, or who read but imperfectly; but these are all from Ireland. No additional schools are required; but the amount of fees, where this is the only remuneration, is quite too small to secure the services of an efficient teacher. Great benefits have undoubtedly resulted from the facilities of procuring education.

*Literature.*—A parochial library was instituted in 1836. It already contains upwards of 600 volumes in religion and general literature.

*Poor, &c.*—There is no legal assessment for the poor. They are supported by church collections and other contributions; by the interest on sums bequeathed for their behoof; but principally by the alms of the charitable, which they are in the habit of collecting quarterly. The average number of persons receiving parochial aid, including eight who are relieved occasionally, is 57; and the average yearly sum allotted to each is about L. 1, 10s. The an-

nual amount of contributions for their relief is about L. 90. Of this sum, L. 31, 12s. consists of church collections; L. 30 of interests from legacies; and L. 30 of voluntary contributions by heritors and others, mortcloth dues, &c. Parochial relief is not, in general, considered degrading; and there is, consequently, little reluctance in seeking it.

*Alehouses.*—There are no fewer than ten ale-houses or public-houses in the parish; and their influence on the morals and comfort of the people is most pernicious.

*Fuel.*—The fuel used in the parish consists of coal imported from England, Glasgow, and Ayrshire, and sold at the rate of 16s. to 18s. per 24 cwt. Peat also is used: and poor people are frequently obliged to have recourse to furze and heath.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The most striking variations betwixt the present state of the parish, and that which existed at the time of the last Statistical Account, are observable in the introduction of the modern system of husbandry; the more extensive cultivation of green crops, especially potatoes; the substitution of wheat for bear; and the now improved state of the roads.

*February 1839.*

## GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON THE COUNTY OF WIGTON.

---

*Etymology*—OF the etymology of the name Wigton, it is difficult to give an account. The respectable minister of the parish of Wigton derives the word from *wic*, a village, and *ton*, a hill; a derivation descriptive of the local situation of the town, which is seated on a considerable eminence, overlooking the bay of Wigton. But the word is susceptible of a very different etymology; namely, *wic* or *waeg*, a wave, a billow, a sea, and *ton* or *tun*, a dwelling, or village. This derivation is as appropriate as the other, and bears a better analogy to the names of many other places in the same province. The word *ton* or *tun* is universal throughout Scotland, as signifying a *village* or *dwelling*; hence, indeed, the English word town. A farm-steading is to this day, in many districts, called in the current speech a *farm-town*. And as to the syllable *wic*, or, as it is generally spelled, *wick*, it is used as descriptive of a place that is washed by the sea, such as Senwick, Rerwick, Southwick. Hence we define Wigton as a village washed by the sea; a definition which is corroborated by the fact, as mentioned by Symson in his *Large Account of Galloway*, and as is known from other sources, that Wigton, instead of having been at first built on an eminence, as the former etymology would lead us to believe, originally occupied a level site, which was gradually abraded by the sea, and is now a full quarter of a mile within tide-mark. The county would necessarily take its name from the chief town within its bounds; and Wigton was, at the time (1341) when the county was formed, if not the only, at least the chief town in the district. Wigtonshire is sometimes called West Galloway, or the shire of Galloway, or more briefly, the shire; the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright being denominated East Galloway; the two are known by the common name of Galloway.

*Boundaries.*—The county is bounded on the east by Wigton Bay, and the river Cree, which separate it from the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright; on the north, by Ayrshire; on the west, by the Irish Channel; and on the south, by the Irish sea. It is bounded by water, therefore, on every side, except the north. It lies between  $54^{\circ} 38'$  and  $55^{\circ} 4'$  north latitude, and between  $4^{\circ} 16'$  and  $5^{\circ} 6'$  west longitude. It is divided into three districts,—the Rhynns (peninsula), which lies west of a line drawn between Luce Bay and Lochryan; the Machers (flat country), lying between the Wigton and Luce Bays; and the Moors, which includes the remainder, being more than the third of the whole county. No part of the shire is above 13 miles from the sea.

*Population.*—The following table shews the state of the population at different periods:

1755.	1801.	1811.	1821.	1831.		
				Males.	Females.	Total.
16,466	22,918	26,891	33,240	17,078	19,180	36,258

The number of square miles in the county being 459, there are 79 inhabitants to each square mile. Taking Scotland altogether the average is 80 to a square mile. The following table may not be uninteresting.

Population returns in 1831,			No. of persons corresponding to	
Persons.	Families.	Inhabited houses.	Each family.	Each house.
36,258	7,514	6,404	4,825	5,661

We may state that, with the exception of Irish settlers, who form a numerous class, the greater number of the inhabitants can trace back their descent through many generations. They are of Celtic descent; and it is a curious circumstance that, even so late as the time of Queen Mary, Gaelic was the vernacular dialect of the district. Nor was this speech entirely disused in the more remote parishes of the county, till about the beginning of the seventeenth century. It may accordingly be supposed, what is really the case, that the feudal feeling predominates in Wigtonshire to a greater extent than in any other county in the south of Scotland; and that superstitious observances and traditionary legends abound. These, however, are now confined chiefly to the more remote parishes, and are fast giving way even there.

*Physical Appearance.*—The physical appearance of Wigtonshire is not striking or varied. Though there are eminences and hills of considerable height, yet it has been remarked, that there is no county in Scotland that rises so little above the level of the sea. There are, properly speaking, no navigable rivers, if we

except the Cree, which is navigable for vessels of very small tonnage for about four miles, and Bladenoch navigable not so far. But though not possessed of large and navigable rivers, this county abounds with the most spacious bays and harbours; Wigton Bay, which lies on the east, gradually varying from eight miles in width, till it terminates in the Cree, a distance of about ten miles; and Luce Bay forming an indentation on the south of the county, to about the extent of fifteen miles, stretching inward till it reaches the town of Glenluce, where it terminates. These bays form two remarkable promontories,—the Borough Head on the south-east, and the Mull of Galloway on the south-west,—the two most southerly points in Scotland, the latter being about a mile and a-half farther south than the former. Lochryan, on the north-west, extends into the county about 9 miles, till it reach Stranraer, its breadth varying from 2 to 4 miles. The most important harbours are Carty, Wigton, and Garlieston, on the Wigton Bay; Isle of Whithorn, near the Borough Head; Port William and Sandhead, on the opposite sides of the Luce Bay; Portnessock and Portpatrick, on the Irish Channel; and Stranraer and Cairnryan, on Lochryan. The fresh water lochs, though pretty numerous, are small. Dowalton, on Longcastle, in the Machers, the largest, is only about 2 miles long, by  $1\frac{1}{2}$  broad. The lakes in the county occupy  $7\frac{1}{2}$  square miles.

*Soil and Agriculture.*—The soil in the three districts,—the Machers, the Rhynns, and the Moors, into which Wigton is divided,—is very different. The soil of the two first districts is, for the most part, a hazelly loam, dry and well adapted for the turnip husbandry; but on the barony of Baldoon, in the parish of Kirkinner, and along the Cree for several miles, between Newtonstewart and Wigton, there is a considerable extent of rich alluvial soil. The moors are bleak and barren, and in many instances constitute what is called *flow*, that is, mossy land partially covered with water. The most improved system of agriculture is everywhere pursued, though perhaps the best specimens may be found on the estate of Baldoon, which is reckoned the Carse of Gowrie of the south. Of the relative proportions of land in crop and in pasture, a correct idea may be formed from the fact, that out of 288,960 English acres which the county contains, 101,136, or about 35 per cent., are under cultivation; 187,824, or about 65 per cent., in pasture. Land in Wigtonshire is very little subdivided, and is mostly under entail. It is let in farms of middle size, and generally for a lease of

nineteen years. The average rent of land in 1810 was 8s. 6d. an acre ; now, however, it must be about a fourth less. The valued rental of the county is L. 67,642 Scotch, old valuation. Annual value of real property in 1815, was L. 143,425.

Agriculture, though now practised on the most modern and enlightened principles was, till within a century, in a very rude state. Marshal Stair was the first to introduce agricultural improvements into this county, as his sister, the Countess of Loudon, (who died in 1770, aged 100,) did into Ayrshire. This celebrated nobleman retired from public business in 1728, and spent the remainder of his days either in the counties of Wigton or Linlithgow, (in each of which he had a residence,) in the quiet pursuits of private life. He introduced into both these counties, the most approved modes of agriculture he had witnessed either in England or on the Continent. He practised the horse-hoeing system : he introduced the Lucerne and St Foin grasses : in addition to potatoes, which then (1728) first began to be cultivated in the open fields, he cultivated turnips, carrots, and cabbages, with the plough ; he subdivided and inclosed his lands, drained swamps and marshes ; and altogether exhibited a skill and an enterprise such as to effect a revolution in agriculture in the two counties in question. Lord Stair died in 1747 ; but the beneficial influence of his example continued ; and since his death, Wigton has enjoyed the advantage of possessing various skilful agriculturists, both landlords and tenants, to whom her progress is deeply indebted. Two agricultural societies have been long erected in the county ; and the existing race of farmers are highly respectable in point both of general intelligence and professional skill.

*Steam-Navigation.*—But Wigtonshire, from the general progress of the arts of peace, now enjoys advantages unknown there even ten years ago. Remote as is her situation, she is reaping all the benefits which steam navigation is so eminently calculated to confer. Two steam-boats regularly ply between her leading ports and Liverpool and Whitehaven ; so that a ready and advantageous market is opened up for her black-cattle and agricultural produce. A farmer can now send his stock or his corn to Liverpool, and get it disposed of in the shortest time, at the market-price, and for ready money. Formerly, the case was quite otherwise. Corn-dealers travelled the country, buying up grain, with the view of shipping it to an English market. Their purchases were seldom, if ever, made with cash. On the contrary, it was almost the invariable

practice to grant bills for payment, at four or six months' date. These persons were not always men of capital ; and the business which they followed was, from its nature, a very precarious one ; so that, in proportion to their numbers, a greater proportion of such provincial corn-dealers are known to have become bankrupt than any other class of men. A similar remark is applicable to the drovers, or those persons who purchased black-cattle in Wigtonshire, with the view of driving them for sale to some English market. These persons also followed a trade liable to as much caprice and fluctuation as that of the corn-dealers ; and, like them, they seldom, if ever, paid in cash, but by a bill drawn at four or six months. Hence the great risk and eventual losses to which the farmers in Wigtonshire were continually exposed, and the general bankruptcy and distress that ensued. When the agricultural interests were suffering so much for some years previously to 1823, it is a fact well known to the present writer, that all the more extensive corn-dealers and drovers became bankrupt ; so that the county of which we are speaking, as well as the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright, experienced an extent of loss and misery equally general and lamentable. But the introduction of steam navigation has put an end to this wretched system, and now affords to the farmer a ready and a safe market for effecting the largest sales, either of cattle or of corn. In addition to the steam-boats which ply regularly between Wigtonshire and England, there are two steamers which weekly sail between Stranraer and Glasgow ; so that the inhabitants of this remote county have now the ready and frequent command of the best markets, both in England and Scotland, either for buying or selling. But while steam navigation has been productive of such important advantages as we have described, it has been attended with other results, which, though favourable in a national point of view, are unfavourable to this province. The traffic and travelling that had previously prevailed between Ireland and England, *via* Portpatrick and Donaghadee, have been, in a great measure, turned into a new channel, and this county has in consequence proportionally suffered. Galloway formed at one time the great high road between the northern and north-western counties of Ireland and England. There is now very little travelling by this route. The steamers plying from almost every Irish port to Liverpool or Holyhead, engross almost the whole of the travelling, of which Galloway formerly enjoyed the advantage. Hence, posting in this county has nearly



disappeared; the number of post-chaises being supposed to be now only a fourth of what they were twenty or thirty years ago. Nor is this all. The importation of Irish horses and black-cattle at Portpatrick has diminished to a similar extent. It appears from the account of the parish of Portpatrick, that whereas the number of such stock imported at Portpatrick, was 17,275 in 1790, and 20,000 in 1812, it was, in 1837, only 1080. "Both cattle and horses from Ireland," says the reverend writer of that account, "are now conveyed so easily and safely by steamers to Liverpool or Glasgow, that the short sea-passage at Portpatrick is not so desirable for them as when steam navigation was unknown, or in its infancy." We may here state that the mail-coach was first introduced into Galloway in 1804, and that it has since continued to run daily between Dumfries and Portpatrick. An additional mail-coach commenced two years ago to run between Newton-stewart and Stranraer *via* Wigton, Whithorn, Portpatrick, and Glenluce; but as the speculation, we believe, is a losing concern, it is thought it will be discontinued, and the mail between these places carried, as before, on horseback. There is not, nor ever was, an opposition coach in Wigtonshire.

*Religious Houses and Ecclesiastical State.*—Wigtonshire was distinguished for the number of monasteries which it contained; namely, those of Whithorn, Wigton, Glenluce, and Souleseat, of each of which an account will be found under the parishes to which they severally belong. The oldest church in Scotland, founded by St Ninian, was built near the site of the present Whithorn. This county, at the Reformation, contained 21 parishes, with various subsidiary chapels, built either for the private use of some baronial family, or for the advantage of the remote inhabitants of a large parish. These chapels have long been disused; and in some cases even their ruins have disappeared. Parishes have been more judiciously arranged: in some instances, that of Sorbie, for example, three, being annexed, form one; and though three *new* parishes have been erected, (Kirkcowan, Stranraer, and Portpatrick,) the number is reduced to 17.

*History.*—As the civil history of Galloway, of which province Wigtonshire formed a part, is curious and interesting, a brief sketch of it, as connected with the county, may not be inappropriate in this place. The aborigines, who were of Celtic origin, were the *Novantes*: their chief towns were *Rerigonium* on the *Rerigonus Sinus*, or Lochryan,—and *Leucophibia*, the present Whithorn.

The Mull of Galloway they called *Promontorium Novantium*; the Luce Bay *Abravannus Sinus*; the Wigton Bay *Jena fluvius*. Galloway was invaded by the Romans; but no Roman colony seems to have been established there; nor were the original inhabitants driven away. On the abdication of the Romans in 448, this province was over-run by the Anglo-Saxons of Northumbria; to whom it remained partially subject till the beginning of the ninth century. The inhabitants, owing to the extinction of the Northumbrian dynasty in 820, having gained their independence, fell a prey to the Picts; a race of men, who, whatever was their origin, flourished and became eminent in Galloway, after their name had been forgotten in other districts. But notwithstanding of their successively falling under the dominion of these various tribes, the original Celtic inhabitants of Galloway were never entirely displaced. On the contrary, they contrived to retain their customs and manners, and, in many respects, to preserve, if we may so speak, their nationality. They were distinguished for daring heroism and intrepidity, insomuch that they obtained the appellation of "the wild Scots of Galloway," and were granted, by the Scottish Kings, the privilege of forming the van in every battle at which they might be present. Of their leaders or rulers we have, for a long time, but little account. Jacobus, "the ruler of Galloway," is mentioned as one of the eight *reguli* who met at Chester in 973. Ulrig and Dovenald (M'Dowall, still represented by the M'Dowalls of Logan, in the parish of Kirkmaiden, in Wigtonshire,) the leaders of the Gallovidians, acted a conspicuous part, with their followers, at the battle of the Standard in 1138, in which they were both slain. But the first "Lord of Galloway" was Fergus, of whose parentage nothing is known, though there is no doubt that he represented a family who had long been powerful in the province. The Gallovidians were, for about a century, ruled over by their own independent princes or "Lords," the descendants of Fergus. They frequently revolted against the Scottish King, and carried on war against their sovereign with various success. On the death of Allan, the last Lord of Galloway, his power and domains were, in 1234, subdivided among his three daughters,—which introduced new families and new customs. He had been twice married: his second wife was Margaret, daughter of David, Earl of Huntingdon. His daughter, Elena, was married to the Earl of Winchester; Christian, to the Earl of Albemarle; and Devorgille, to John Baliol of Bernard Castle. The

two last daughters were born to him by his second wife, the daughter of the Earl of Huntingdon. Devorgille's marriage was productive of five children; a daughter, married to John Cumyn of Badenoch,—and four sons, one of whom, John Baliol, succeeded to the Scottish throne, as the descendant of David of Huntingdon. John Baliol, King of Scotland, who was grandson of Allan, the last of the Lords of Galloway, possessed great estates in both Wigtonshire and the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright, the chief seat of the family being Buittle Castle, in the latter. The county of Wigton, with the title of Earl, was conferred by David II. in 1341, on Sir Malcolm Fleming; but Fleming, amid the distraction of the times, was obliged, in 1372, to dispose of his estates (though he retained the title) to Archibald Douglas. From this date, the Douglasses ruled supreme till their forfeiture in 1453. The county was then parcelled out among different families; many of which still remain; and the Agnews of Lochnaw were created heritable sheriffs. This office remained in their family till the abolition of hereditary jurisdiction in 1747, with the exception of seventeen years previous to the Revolution, when Graham of Claverhouse, and his brother, Colonel David Graham, were appointed joint-sheriffs. (Chalmers's *Caledonia*, Vol. I. passim. Murray's *Literary History of Galloway*, 2d edit. pp. 330-2).

*Antiquity of Families.*—Whether any family in Wigtonshire can claim descent from the ancient Lords of Galloway, is a question that has long been agitated, and, from its nature, will never probably be ascertained; but it seems to be generally allowed that the M'Dowalls, if not lineally descended from them, are of the same race and lineage. (*Caledonia*, iii. 379.) The M'Dowalls have always been a powerful race in this country, and their origin is lost in its antiquity,—*ultra memoriam hominum*, to quote the words of one of their earliest charters. The name is still eminent; but the number that bear it is reduced.—The M'Cullochs, of whom the laird of Merton, in the parish of Mochrum, was the chief, are perhaps next in point of antiquity to the M'Dowalls. Both families, during the successive wars, espoused the cause of the Baliols; and Edward I. appointed Thomas M'Culloch sheriff of the province. In 1337, Edward III. granted Patrick M'Culloch an annual pension of L. 20 for his good services in Scotland. The last of the Merton line, Sir Godfrey M'Culloch, a dissolute character, who squandered and sold his estates, was beheaded at the Cross of Edinburgh for murder in 1697. In those distracted times, private property was not in

many cases secure. Sir Godfrey, and a person of the name of Gordon, claimed the estate of Cardoness, in the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright. The former had possession; and the latter lived at Bushyfield, in the neighbourhood. They were personal enemies to each other; and Sir Godfrey having come to Bushyfield to assist in removing some cattle that had been pointed, and having thus met Gordon, discharged a loaded gun at him, and inflicted wounds which afterwards proved fatal. Sir Godfrey fled to England, but having afterwards returned to Scotland, he was apprehended in a church on a Sunday in Edinburgh, while attending public worship. At the end of the service, a gentleman from Galloway, who was present, and who, it is said, had a pecuniary interest in the death of M<sup>c</sup>Culloch, cried out with an air of authority, "Shut the doors,—there's a murderer in the house!" Sir Godfrey was thus apprehended; and having been tried, he was executed on the 26th of March 1697. His "Last Speech," (printed from the only copy known to exist, and which is in the hands of the writer of this notice,) is given below. \* He had never been married, though

\* "The Last Speech of Sir Godfrey M<sup>c</sup>Culloch of Myreton, Knight and Baronet, who was beheaded at the Cross of Edinburgh, the twenty six day of March 1697.

"I am brought here, good people, to give satisfaction to justice for the slaughter of *William Gordon*, designed of *Cardines*, and therefore I am obliged, as a dying man, to give a faithful and true account of the matter.

"I do declare in the sight of God I had no design against his life, nor did I expect to see him when I came where the accident happened: I came there contrair to my inclination, being pressed by these two persons who were the principal witnesses against me (they declaring he was not out of bed), that I might relieve their goods he had pointed: I do freely forgive them, and I pray heartily God may forgive them, for bringing me to that place.

"When I was in *England*, I was oft-times urged by several persons who declared they had commission from *Castle-Stewart* and her Lady†† (now the pursuers for my blood), that I might give up the papers of these lands of *Cardines*, whereupon they promised not only a piece of money but also to concur for procuring me a Remission; and I have been several times since in the country, where the misfortune happened, and where they lived, but never troubled by any of them; although now after they had got themselves secured in these lands without me, they have been very active in the pursuit, untill at last they have got me brought to this place.

"I do acknowledge my sentence is just, and does not repine; for albeit it was only a single wound in the leg, by a shot of small hail, which was neither intended nor could be foreseen to be deadly; yet I do believe that God in his justice hath suffered me to fall in that miserable accident, for which I am now to suffer because of my many other great and grievous unrepented for sins; I do therefore heartily forgive my judges, accusers, witnesses, and all others who have now, or at any time injured me, as I wish to be forgiven.

"I recommend my wife and poor children to the protection of the Almighty God, who doth take care of and provide for the widow and fatherless; and prays that God may stir up and enable their friends and mine to be careful of them.

"I have been branded as being a *Roman Catholick*, which I altogether disown, and declare, as the words of a dying man, who am instantly to make my appearance before the *Great Tribunal of the Great God*, that I die in the *true Catholick reformed Protest-*

† The lady was Gordon's daughter, and married to William Stewart of Castle-Stewart.

he avers the contrary ; but he left behind him several illegitimate children, who, with their mother, removed to Ireland on the death of their father. One of his grandchildren suffered capital punishment in that country for robbery, about the year 1760. These two families, the M'Dowalls and the M'Cullochs, are the oldest in Wigtonshire ; but there are many others of nearly equal standing ; such as the Agnews, the Kennedys, the Adairs, all of Irish extraction ; the Dunbars (descended from the Earls of March,) the Hannays, the Gordons of Balmeg, Craichlaw, and Culvinnan, the M'Kies, all of which settled in this county about 500 years ago. The first charter in favour of the Vanses was in 1451. The Maxwells (from the house of Nithsdale,) were established here in the same century. The Murrays of Broughton, (of honourable descent in Dumfries-shire, and now representing in the Stewartry the Stewarts of Cally and the Lennoxes of Plunton,) the Hays of Park, the Stewarts, the Rosses, the Blairs of Dunskey, the Dalrymples of Stair, the Cathcarts of Genoch, the Hawthorns, first appear in the annals of Wigton in the 16th or 17th century. The Ramsays of Boghouse, the Nelsons of Craiggaffie, the Christians or Christies of Monkhill and Drummaston, the Houstons of Cutreoch, the Martins of Cutcloy and Airies, the Baillies of Dunragget, have either become extinct, or have terminated in females, or have now no property in Wigtonshire. There are, also, M'Kerlies, a name common here since the days of Wallace, but which, so far as we know, occurs in no other district in Scotland. The M'Taggarts (represented by John M'Taggart of Ardwell, M. P. for the Stranraer burghs,) have been settled in Wigtonshire

*ant religion*, renouncing all righteousness of my own or any others, relying only upon the merits of CHRIST JESUS, through whose blood I hope to be saved, and whom I trust will not only be my Judge but also Advocate with the Father for my redemption

“ Now, Dear spectator, as my last request, *again and again*, I earnestly desire and beg the assistance of your fervent prayers, that although I stand here condemned by man, I may be absolved before the *tribunal of the great God*, that in place of this scaffold, I may enjoy a throne of glory ; that this violent death may bring me to a life of glorious rest, eternal in the heavens ; and that in place of all these spectators, I may be accompanied with an innumerable company of saints and angels, singing *Hallelujah* of the great King to all eternity.

“ Now, O Lord, remember me with that love thou bearest to thy own, and visit me with thy salvation, that I may see the good of thy chosen ones, and may glory in thine inheritance. Lord Jesus, purge me from all my sins, and from this of blood-guiltiness, wash me in thy own blood. Great are my iniquities, but greater are the mercies of God ! O let me be amongst the number of those for whom Christ died ; be thou my advocat with the Father. Into thy hands do I recommend my spirit ; come Lord Jesus, come and receive my soul. Amen.

“ Sic Subscrititur SIR GODFREY M·CULLOCH.”

for a century and a half ; but, though of respectable rank, were not land-owners till about forty years ago. The oldest names, in addition to those already mentioned, are M'Guffie, M'Kinnell, M'Keand, M'Gowan, M'Geoch, M'Gill, M'Nish, M'Cracken, Broadfoot, Donnan, almost all of which are evidently Celtic, and must have come down from the remotest antiquity. While old names and old families thus predominate, very few new ones, owing to the remote nature of the province, have been introduced. The chief immigration is from Ireland ; and this is generally not of a very desirable kind ; though some of the oldest and best families in the county were originally of Irish extraction.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There is one important inference to be made from the various parochial accounts ; namely, the great number of Irish settlers, and the inferior rank they hold, both as to education, a spirit of independence, and other respects. A third of the whole labourers of the parish of Kirkcolm, it is stated, are either Irish, or descended of Irish parents ; while in the parish of Portpatrick it appears that, out of a population of 2239, no fewer than 421 are *natives* of Ireland, exclusive, of course, of those who, though born in the parish, are descended of Irish parents ; so that, taking this view of the case, the Irish proportion of the labourers will not be less than a *third*. The parishes nearest to Portpatrick will of course be more occupied with immigrants from the sister island than those in the middle or east of the province ; but, taking the average of the whole county, we have little doubt that a *fifth* of the aggregate population will consist either of native Irish, or of persons born of Irish parents. It will also appear from the accounts, as hinted above, that, proportionally to their numbers, the lists of paupers in the different parishes contain more Irish than native Scotch. But though the county be thus overrun with adventurers from Ireland, who, while they bring no money along with them, have a tendency, by factitiously adding to the supply of labour, to lower wages, and thus to deteriorate the general condition of the industrious classes,—yet pauperism prevails but to a small extent in this county ; a fact highly honourable to the character of the excellent classes in question. Out of a population of 36,258, there are only about 700 persons receiving parochial aid, and some of these receiving only the smallest sum, sometimes less than L. 1 a-year, in order to pay, or help to pay, their house-rent ; that is, only 1 in 52 persons is a pauper, being less than the third of the average

of England. Nor is the smallness of the sum applied to their relief less remarkable than the paucity of the number of paupers. The aggregate annual amount distributed among these 700 poor is only about L. 1375, being rather less than L. 2 for each individual, or at the extraordinarily low rate of 6d. per head of population. The lowness of this rate will be best appreciated when we state that the average burden in England, previously to the new poor law in 1834, was *twenty-three* times greater, or 11s. and 8d. per head of population. There are no poor-rates or legal assessments in the whole county except in one parish.

Wigton, Whithorn, and Stranraer unite with the small burgh of New Galloway in returning a Member to Parliament. The constituency of the first is 101; of the second 54; of the third 217; and New Galloway 20; the aggregate being 392. John M'Taggart of Ardwell, Esq. is the present member. Constituency of the county 942,—represented by James Blair of Penninghame, Esq.

TABLE I. Showing Ecclesiastical State, &amp;c.

Parish.	Population in 1831.	Ecclesiastical State.					Amount of parochial Ministers' Stipend.	Schools in the Parish.	Par. Schoolmasters'	
		Families belonging to Estab. Church.	Individuals belonging to Estab. Church.	Fams. of Dissenters and Seceders.*	Individuals of Dissenters & Seceders	Salary.			Fees	
1 Wigton,	2337	240	...	91	...	18 ch. half meal half barley.	3	...	...	
2 Kirkinner,	1514	205	1100	78	...	16 ch. half meal half barley.	4	L. 34. 4s. 4d.	L. 30	
3 Sorbie,	1412	152	671	...	269	L. 242, 2 fir. &c. meal, 2 do. bear.	5	L. 25, 13s. 3d.	64	
4 Glasserton,	1194	...	...	...	...	L. 190.	2	L. 34.	25	
5 Whithorn,	2415	420	...	84	...	17 ch. half meal half barley.	11	2 ch. meal, & L. 6, 1 c. meal	60	
6 Mochrum,	2105	900	...	75	...	L. 157.	5	L. 31.	12	
7 Old Luce,	2180	321	...	44	...	L. 150.	5	L. 25.	40	
8 New Luce,	628	110	...	7	...	L. 150.	1	L. 25, 13s. 4d.	5	
9 Inch,	2521	...	1965	...	689	L. 258, 12s. 3d.	4	L. 25.	20	
10 Stranraer,	3929	...	1729	...	1194	L. 150.	8	L. 20.	50	
11 Kirkcolm,	...	343	...	40	...	15 ch. half meal half barley.	4	L. 27.	16	
12 Leswalt,	2686	411	...	128	...	L. 150.	4	L. 25.	...	
13 Portpatrick,	2239	...	1591	...	400	L. 150.	8	L. 30.	...	
14 Stony Kirk,	2966	410	...	86	...	Grain stip. 4 ch. meal, 4 barley.	6	L. 25, 13s. 3d.	10	
15 Penninghame,	3461	530	2723	...	833	16 ch. half meal half barley.	9	L. 34, 4s. 4d.	...	
16 Kirkowan,	1374	263	...	41	...	L. 292, 11s. 8d.	2	L. 25.	35	
17 Kirkmaiden,	2051	...	1935	...	116	L. 150.	3	L. 25, 13s.	...	

## REMARKS.

*N. B.*—The emoluments of the Parochial Schoolmasters stated in this table do not include what they derive from other sources than the salary and school-fees.

- The total number of Roman Catholic families included in this column is 157; and the enumerations in the subsequent column include 542 Roman Catholic individuals. See below.
- 1. Wigton; 25 of the families classed as Dissenting are Roman Catholic families. The total number of scholars stated in the Report as attending schools in the parish, does not include those attending the Sabbath schools: and the number of schools stated in the table does not include the number of Sabbath schools, but only one public school and two private. The sum total in the column for the Parochial Schoolmasters' emoluments, expresses the sum total of the emoluments of the teacher of the grammar school.
- 2. Kirkinner; 23 of the families classed as Dissenting are Roman Catholic families.
- 5. Whithorn; 12 of the families classed as Dissenting are Roman Catholic families.
- 6. Mochrum; 35 of the families classed as Dissenting are Roman Catholic families.
- 7. Old Luce; 19 of the families classed as Dissenting are Roman Catholic families.



of Parishes in the County of Wigton.

Emoluments		Savings' Banks.		Annual amount of contributions for the Poor.			
Total.	Number.	Amount yearly invested.	Amount yearly withdrawn.	From assessment or voluntary contribution by Heritors.	From church Collections.	From Alms, Legacies, &c.	Total.
1 L. 100.	...	...	...	L. 72, 6s. 8d. L. 7.	L. 52, 6s. 2d.	L. 24.	L. 156
2 L. 64, 4s. 4d.	...	...	...	L. 50.	L. 25.	L. 6.	81
3 L. 89, 13s. 3d.	...	...	...	L. 30.	L. 30.	...	60
4 L. 59.	...	...	...	L. 13.	L. 25.	L. 12.	50
5 ..	1	L. 800	L. 800	L. 50.	L. 60.	...	120
6 L. 43.	...	...	...	...	L. 69, 15s.	l. 15.	84
7 L. 65.	...	...	...	No assessment.	...	Int. of L. 270.	80
8 L. 30.	...	...	...	...	L. 15.	Int. of L. 300.	...
9 L. 45.	...	...	...	L. 12, 15s. donations.	L. 43.	L. 20, 16s. int. L. 13, 2s. 6d. pr.	90
10 ...	1	L. 500	L. 100	...	L. 50.	L. 30 legacies, int. of L. 450.	...
11 L. 43.	...	...	...	...	L. 40.	L. 16.	56
12 ...	...	...	...	...	L. 55.	Int. of L. 200.	...
13 ...	...	...	...	Vol. contrib. by heritors.	L. 40.	Int. of L. 180.	...
14 L. 35.	...	...	...	L. 58.	L. 55.	...	113
15 ...	...	...	...	No assess. but vol. contrib.	L. 75, 18s.	l. 10.	...
16 L. 60.	...	...	...	L. 25.	L. 35.	l. 3, 1s.	63
17 ...	...	...	...	L. 30.	L. 31, 12s.	L. 30.	90

8. New Luce; 3 of the families classed as Dissenting are Roman Catholic families.
10. Stranraer; 161 of the individuals classed as Dissenting are Roman Catholics.
11. Kirkcolm. The total number of families in the parish is 383; of these, 255 are chiefly employed in agriculture, and 50 in trade, manufactures, or handicraft.
12. Leswalt; 17 of the families classed as Dissenting are Roman Catholic families.
13. Portpatrick; 114 of the individuals classed in the column for Dissenters, or Seceders, are Roman Catholics; and 24 Episcopalians.
14. Stonykirk; 10 of the families classed as Dissenting are Roman Catholic; and 2 Episcopalian.
15. Penninghame. The 833 classed as Dissenters include 9 Episcopalians, and 184 Roman Catholics.
16. Kirkowan; 13 of the families classed as Dissenting are Roman Catholic.
17. Kirkmaiden; 88 of the individuals classed as Dissenters are Roman Catholics.

TABLE II.—Showing Extent, &amp;c. of Parishes in County of Wigton.

Parish.	Acres in parish.	Acres cultivated or occasionally in tillage.	Acres uncultivated.	Ac. suppos. capable of cultivation with profit.	Acres under wood.
1. Wigton,	5500				
2. Kirkinner,	15,000	13,500	1500		300
3. Sorbie,	9036	7772	1264	30	490
4. Glasserton,	13,477	9379	4098		315
5. Whithorn,	10,000	10,000			
6. Mochrum,		26,880		1000	200
7. Old Luce,	40,350	30,000	10,350		350
8. New Luce,					
9. Inch,	31,255	12,600	18,655		655
10. Stranraer,					
11. Kirkcolm,	11,645	10,384	1261	120	
12. Leswalt,					
13. Portpatrick,		6300	2888	500	300
14. Stonykirk,	21,420	19,100	2300	1115	375
15. Penninghame,	33,600	12,000	21,600	1200	600
16. Kirkowan,	30,861	6802	24,059	628	280
17. Kirkmaiden,	11,971	3890	8081		240

N.B.—The acres uncultivated include those capable of cultivation and those under wood.

17. Kirkmaiden. The number of acres here stated as uncultivated include those at present in pasture, amounting to 6312.

The following communication on the interesting antiquity called the Deil's Dike, has been received from Mr JOSEPH TRAIN, Castle-Douglas, a zealous and distinguished antiquary.

“ My attention was, for several years, occasionally occupied in tracing the vast rampart called the Deil's Dike through Galloway and Nithsdale. It commences at Lochryan in the farm of Beoch, near the site of the ancient city of Berigorium, where Agricola, the Roman General, had a station. \* Thence it extends through the farms of Braid, Auchenvane, Kirnevarn, and Kilfedder. From Kilfedder, it takes an easterly direction from the farm of Derry, and passes by the north end of Loch Maberrie. It passed the old Kirk-yard of Kirkcalla; but about the commencement of the present century, the stones were carried away to make *Ring Fences* in the neighbourhood. In the adjoining farm of Ocheltree, this ancient structure runs from the east side of the loch to the summit of the hill, where there are the remains of a watch-tower made of very large stones. Along the whole line of the Deil's Dike, there is no other place from which a sentinel could have had such a commanding view of the surrounding country. From the hill of Ocheltree, the dike extends along the farm of Glenvernock. Immediately

\* I have seen the head of a Roman spear which was found there. In the year 1825, this remnant of antiquity was in the possession of Mr Mackenzie of Stranraer.

above Glendochart, the line is interrupted by a circular stone wall 190 yards in diameter. This is evidently a hill-fort of large dimensions. In the farm of Knockvill, which adjoins that of Glendochart, the dike runs into the loch of Cree. From the opposite side of the loch, it passes through the Cumberwood, and appears again in Cordorken, in the parish of Minnigaff; thence stretches along the hill of Blair, in the farm of Torregan, and across the moor of Dranandow, between the standing stones, called the *Thieves* and the *Nappers*. As it passes from Torregan to Dranandow, it runs through a bog, and is only perceptible by the heather growing long and close on the top of it; whereas, on each side the soil only produces rushes and moss. Near the centre of the bog, I caused the peat to be cleared away close to the dike, and thereby found the foundation to be several feet below the surface, which appeared to me a sure indication of its great antiquity.

“From the *Craw-Stane* of Dranandow, the dike passes along the south side of the Garlick, through the farm of Auchinleck, over the south side of Drigmorn, and by the foot of Tonergee. It crosses the burn of Pilmure, and appears again on the south side of Talnetrie. It goes up Craignelder, on the farm of Corwar, passes to Craigencallie, and is very entire in the Garrory, Clanry, Duckieston, Largrave, and Knockreach. Near the old bridge of Deuch, it appears again, and continues through the farms of Moonkaig, Auchinshinnock, and hill-end of Keroch. It passes through Glencairn, Tynron, Penpont, and is nearly entire in the farm of Southmains, in the parish of Sanquhar.

“Keeping the course of the great dike, Southmains is upwards of fifty miles from Lochryan. In this distance, there are so many connecting links as to leave no doubt of this vast ruin having been conjoined. Where there is any breach in it, I was fortunate enough, in almost every instance, to find old people who remembered the stones having been carried away from that part of the dike, to make enclosures in the neighbourhood.

“From Southmains, it is said to have taken an easterly direction till it joined the large dike, yet so entire at Thornithwaite, and at Hightae Flow, in the parish of Lochmaben. Thence it extended to Britton Wall, in the parish of Annan, and ran into the Solway, nearly opposite Bowness, in Cumberland, where the great wall of Adrian commenced.

“Dr Clapperton of Annan, the father of the celebrated traveller of that name, traced the Deil's Dike far to the westward of Hightae Flow; but I am afraid the details of his survey are lost,

which is to be regretted, as in Dumfries-shire agriculture has made larger inroads on this old structure, than in Galloway, where the greater part of the lands through which it passes, are less susceptible of being disturbed by the plough.

“ This ancient fence is invariably eight feet broad at the base, with a fosse on the north or inland side of it, and seemingly, as far as stones could be procured conveniently, it is built of blocks of common moorstone, which bear no mark of either chisel or hammer. As it recedes from the stony district, it is built of an admixture of stones and earth, or wholly of earth as at Hightae Flow. The builders of this vast rampart, have not taken advantage of natural barriers, such as lochs, rivers, and glens to strengthen its position as a line of defence, but in Galloway it uniformly includes the fertile land to the south of it, from which circumstance, and from the fosse being on the opposite side, it appears to have been built by a people inhabiting the lower and more southern part of the district.

“ The era and use of all the other great walls in the kingdom being well known, it is a singular circumstance that a work of such magnitude as the Deil’s Dike should have been overlooked by historians : consequently every thing connected with its erection is involved in the darkest obscurity. It is not mentioned in the charter of any of the lands through which it passes, so far as I have been able to ascertain. Mr Chalmers, the author of *Caledonia*, in a letter which I received from him, dated 16th April 1820, says, “ I wish you to understand, my good Sir, that there are questions which arise out of your communications, which justify the observations of Mr Hume, that there are questions in history as difficult of solution as any in the sciences. Such is the Deil’s Dike. Considering all its circumstances, it is extremely difficult to assign its age, its object, or its builders. In Ireland, there is nothing like the Deil’s Dike ; the inference is, that it was not made by Irish hands. I am disposed to think that this work is several centuries older than the arrival of the Irish Cruithne or Picts in Galloway.” In *Caledonia*, Vol. iii. page 237, alluding to the same subject, he adds, “ It is obviously a very ancient work, and was probably formed by the Romanized Britons after the departure of the Roman armies.”

“ The name of this ancient structure is an additional proof of its great antiquity, as, down to a late period in Scotland, any work of unknown origin which seemed to exceed the ordinary limits of human exertion, was commonly ascribed to either the Picts, to Michael Scott the wizard, or to the Master Fiend himself.”

# INDEX.

- Abbey of Luce, ruins of, 68  
 Agriculture and rural economy, 5, 18,  
 30, 41, 56, 64, 72, 77, 90, 115, 126,  
 148, 164, 181, 197, 210—improve-  
 ments in, 42, 183—of the county, ge-  
 neral observations on, 220  
 Altdowran glen, 123  
 Antiquities, 2, 15, 28, 41, 55, 61, 68, 85,  
 110, 142, 164, 176, 207  
 Auchtreinatane burn and cascade, 135  
 Baldoon, castle of, 16  
 Balgown bay, 201  
 Balgreggan house, 164  
 Banks, 7—savings, 59, 101, 160  
 Bankton, Lord, birth-place of, 206  
 Barhullion fell, 38  
 Barnbarrock, family of, 12—house, 16  
 Beton, Archbishop, 55  
 Bishop burn, the, 168  
 Bladenoch, distilleries of, 6—village of,  
 6—water, 2, 11, 169, 196  
 Blair, Sir James Hunter, 140  
 Botany, 12, 26, 84, 109, 139, 171,  
 203  
 Bunman hill, 201  
 Burnfoot harbour, 66  
 Burroughhead, the, 53  
 Cairnfield, remains found at, 16  
 Cairnhill, the, 201  
 Cairnpat hill, view from, 130  
 Cairnryan, village and harbour of, 92  
 Camps, ancient, at Kirkinner, 15—Ro-  
 man, 55—Saxon, 61  
 Canoe, ancient, dug up at Barnkirk, 178  
 Carsecreuch castle, ruins of, 68  
 Carlton fell, 38  
 Carty harbour, 169, 187  
 Castle bay, the, 132  
 Castle Kennedy loch, 82, 88  
 Castle Stewart house and loch, 41  
 Castle Stewart, ruins of, 177  
 Castlewigg house, 56  
 Cattle, the Galloway breed of, 45—see  
 Live-Stock  
 Caves in Lochryan, 103—at Palmallet,  
 23  
 Celtic remains found in Penninghame,  
 177, 178  
 Chapelrossan, remains of, 200—bay, 201  
 Character and habits of the population,  
 WIGTON.  
 5, 16, 17, 56, 72, 89, 97, 115, 126,  
 145, 146, 180, 209  
 Church, the first Christian, in Scot-  
 land, 55  
 Churches, Established, see Ecclesiasti-  
 cal Statistics  
 Clachan heugh, the, 103  
 Clanyard castle, ruins of, 200  
 Clary house, ruins of, 176  
 Clayhole, village of, 94  
 Clayshank, ruins of church at, 164  
 Climate, see Meteorology  
 Co', chapel and well of, 208  
 Coins, ancient, found at Barnes, 15  
 Connell loch, 103  
 Corrisel house, 179  
 Corsbie house, 179  
 Corswall castle, ruins of, 110—house,  
 111—point and lighthouse, 103, 112  
 Covenanters, persecution of the, 3, 13  
 Craig-Caffie castle, 89  
 Craighlaw house, 197  
 Craigoch burn and loch, 134  
 Crammag point, 201  
 Cree water, the, 168—moss, 168  
 Cross water of Luce, the, 66  
 Cruggleton castle and church, ruins of,  
 23—point, 23—suppressed parish of,  
 28  
 Curling, prevalence of, 89  
 Dairy husbandry and produce, 72  
 Damasks, manufactory of, at Sorbie, 32  
 Deil's dyke, account of the, 232  
 Dissenters and Dissenting chapels, 7, 20,  
 34, 49, 58, 65, 75, 79, 93, 99, 120,  
 128, 157, 166, 189, 198, 215  
 Distilleries, the Bladenoch, 6  
 Douglas, Samuel, bequest by, 190  
 Dowalton loch, 24  
 Druidical remains at Ardwell, 164—at  
 Cairnfield, 15—at Glenterra, 85—at  
 Torhouse, 2  
 Drumore castle, 201—harbour, 201—  
 village, 200  
 Dunskey castle, ruins of, 132, 142—  
 house, 133, 143  
 Dunbar, Gavin, Archbishop of Glasgow,  
 55, 62  
 Dunbar of Baldoon, family of, 16—of  
 Mochrum, family of, 62  
 R

- Ecclesiastical statistics, 6, 19, 33, 47, 58, 65, 74, 78, 92, 98, 119, 127, 156, 165, 148, 198, 215—of the county, general view of, 223, 230
- Education, statistics of, 7, 20, 34, 50, 58, 65, 75, 79, 93, 100, 123, 128, 157, 166, 190, 198, 216
- Eggersness castle, 29—point, 23
- Fairs and markets, 8, 59, 75, 94, 101, 193
- Fisheries, herring and sea, 8, 46, 95, 118, 150, 213—salmon, 82, 68, 76, 170, 186
- Float's Bay, tradition regarding origin of the name, 164
- Friendly societies, 7, 59, 101, 159
- Galloway house, 29—mull of, 201
- Garlieston Bay, 23—village and harbour of, 33
- Garthland tower, ruins of, 164
- General observations on the county, 218
- Geology and mineralogy, 11, 25, 53, 67, 83, 104, 125, 135, 169
- Glasserton hill, 38—house, 41—parish of, 36
- Glenuce, 66—village of, 71, 74
- Glenterra, standing stones of, 85
- Gordon, Bishop of Galloway, 69, 173—Dean of Salisbury, 69—of Gordonstone, the historian, 69
- Gounies' point, 201
- Grennan bay, 201—hill, 201
- Habits, see Character
- Herring and sea fisheries, 8, 46, 95, 118, 150, 213
- Hillhead, village of, 94
- Hollows, remarkable, in parish of Inch, 80
- Husbandry, systems of, 18, 31, 57, 117, 149, 183, 211
- Inch parish of, 80
- Innernessan castle, 87—moat, remains of, 86
- Innerwell point and port, 23
- Inns and alehouses, 21, 59, 75, 94, 101, 122, 128, 160, 166, 193, 217
- Isle of Whithorn, village of, 55—harbour 58
- Johnston, William, martyr, 4
- Keir chapel, site of, 176
- Killantringan bay, 132
- Killiemore, tradition of battle fought at, 173—remains found at, 177
- Killiness point, 201
- Kilmorie chapel, ruins of, 111
- Kirkbride church, ruins of, 111
- Kirkinner, parish of, 9
- Kirkmadrine, ancient church-yard at, 164—suppressed parish of, 22, 28
- Kirkmaiden church, ruins of, 48—pa-
- rish of, 199—ministers of, from the Reformation, 206
- Kirkcolm, parish of, 102
- Kirkowan, parish of, 196
- Larg castle, ruins of, 88
- Leswalt, parish of, 123
- Libraries and literature, 100, 128, 159, 191, 216
- Live-stock, breeds of, 19, 31, 45, 57, 72, 90, 116, 127, 149, 183, 197, 211
- Livingston, Rev. John, 95
- Lochnaw, 125—castle, 126
- Lochryan, 81
- Lochs—Castle Kennedy, 82, 88—Cattle Stewart, 41—Connell, 103—Craigoch, 134—Dowalton, 24—Lochnaw, 125—Lochryan, 81—Logan, 213—Longcastle, 10, 11—Macbeary, 196—Ravenstone, 11—Soulseat, 82
- Logan fish-pond, 213—house, 200—ruins of, 208—mull of, 201
- Longcastle, ruins of the, 10, 15,—loch, 10, 11—suppressed parish of, 10
- Longevity, instances of, in Kirkinner, 11—in Leswalt, 124
- Luce Abbey, 68—bay of, 61, 66—water, 67
- Luce, New, parish of, 76
- Luce, Old, parish of, 66—improvements in, 73
- Macartney, Rev. William, 175—Alexander, banker, 175
- Macbeary loch, 196
- M'Creddie, Archibald, bequest by, 190
- M'Culloch, family of, 225—Sir Godfrey, execution of, for murder, 226
- M'Douall, Admiral, 206
- M'Dowall, family of, 225
- M'Gill, Dr William, 175
- Mackenzie, Rev. Dr, of Portpatrick, 14
- M'Lauchlan, martyrdom of, 3, 13
- M'Ward, Rev. Robert, 70
- Manufactures, 6—at Kirkowan, 198—at Newton-Stewart, 186—in Sorbie, 32
- Markets, see Fairs
- Marriages, irregular, at Portpatrick, 140
- Martyrs' tombs at Wigton, 3, 4
- Maxwell of Monreith, family of, 63
- Merton hall, 179
- Meteorology and Climate, 10, 23, 40, 53, 81, 95, 103, 124, 133, 163, 168
- Meteorological tables kept at Inch, 81
- Miller, George, 174
- Milroy, John, martyrdom of, 4
- Mineralogy, see Geology
- Minigaff chapel, 189
- Mochrum, parish of, 60—place, ruins of, 62
- Monastery, Wigton, 8
- Monreith house, 62—village, 47
- Montlokowre hill, 201
- Morroch bay, 132

- Mounds ancient, remains of, 164  
 Mountains and hills, Barbullion Fell, 38  
   — Bunman, 201—Cairnhill, 201—  
   Cairnpat, 180—Carlton Fell, 38—  
   Glasserton, 38—Grennan, 201—  
   Mondlokowre, 201  
 Mull of Galloway, and lighthouse there-  
 on, 201—of Logan, 201  
 Myrock bay, 201  
 Names prevalent in Wigton, 5  
 Navigation, see Shipping  
 New Luce, parish of, 76  
 Newtonstewart, town of, 187  
 Novantes, relics of the, 85, 86  
 Old Luce, parish of, 66  
 Organic remains found in the moss, 12  
 Orchardton bay, 23  
 Packets, the mail, at Portpatrick, 154  
 Pallmallet, extensive caves at, 23  
 Park castle, ruins of, 68  
 Park, Rev. John, 96  
 Paupers, see Poor  
 Peat cutting, effects of, on the soil, 39  
 Peden, Alexander, the Covenanter, 76  
 Penninghame house, 177, 179—parish  
 of, 167—as compared with period of  
 former Account, 194  
 Persecution of the Covenanters, 13  
 Physgill cave, the residence of St Ninian,  
 37—house, 41  
 Pictish remains and traditions, 207  
 Piltanton water, 67, 82, 125  
 Plantations and planting, 18, 48, 90,  
 116, 125, 148, 163, 173, 204  
 Poaching, prevalence of, 18  
 Poltanton, see Piltanton  
 Poor, management of the, 8, 20, 35, 51,  
 59, 65, 75, 79, 93, 100, 121, 128,  
 160, 166, 192, 198, 216  
 Population returns, 5, 16, 30, 41, 56,  
 64, 71, 77, 89, 96, 114, 126, 143,  
 164, 179, 197, 209  
 Population of the county, 219—charac-  
 ter of, see Character  
 Port Kale, 133  
 Portlogan village, 200—harbour of, 201  
 Portmore bay, 103  
 Portmurray, 132  
 Portnessock bay, 200, 201  
 Portpatrick bay, 132—its depth and  
 tides, 134—harbour, 155—packets,  
 154—parish of, 129—town of, 153—  
 prison, 160  
 Priory of Whithorn, 54  
 Quarries, slate, at Kirkmaiden, 213—  
 at Lochryan, 83  
 Ravenstone loch, 11  
 Rent of land, rates of, 18, 31, 56, 72, 90,  
 116, 127, 149, 182, 211  
 Rerigionium, site of the town of, 86  
 Rigg bay, 23  
 Rivers and streams, Auchtreinatane, 135  
   — Bishopburn, 168—Bladenoch, 2, 11,  
   169, 196—Craigoch, 134—Cree, 168  
   —Cross, 66—Luce, 67—Piltanton, 67,  
   82, 125—Soleburn, 125—Tarf, 196  
 Roman camp at Whithorn, 55—remains  
 at Merton and Cree, 177  
 Ross, Sir John, birth-place of, 85  
 Rowan, Rev. Robert, 173  
 Rural economy, see Agriculture  
 St Columba, 102  
 St Finian's chapel, ruins of, 61  
 St Martin's church, 54  
 St Medan's cave, 208  
 St Ninian, birth-place of, 54—residence  
 of, 37  
 St Ninian's chapel, ruins of, 176  
 St Patrick, traditions regarding, 129  
 Salmon fisheries, 32, 68, 76, 170, 186  
 Sandhead bay, 162  
 Sandy bay, the, 132  
 Savings banks, 59, 101, 160  
 Scar, the, of Lochryan, 102  
 School, Lancasterian at Sorbie, 34  
 Schools, see Education  
 Shells of Lochryan, list of the, 108  
 Shipping belonging to Drumore, 214—  
   Garlieston, 33—Mochrum, 64—Port  
   Patrick, 152—Stranraer, 98—Wig-  
   ton, 6  
 Slate quarries, 83, 213  
 Societies—the agricultural of Penning-  
   hame, 187—friendly, 7, 59, 101, 159  
   —the horticultural of Penninghame,  
   187—religious, 101  
 Soleburn bay, 123—water, 125  
 Sorbie castle, ruins of, 29—parish of,  
   22—ancient ecclesiastical history of,  
   27—village, 33  
 Souleseat abbey, ruins of, 87—loch, 82  
   —suppressed parish of, 84  
 Springs, mineral, of Barnbarroch, 11  
 Stair family, origin of their connection  
 with Wigton, 69—Earl of, bequest by,  
 for the poor of Stranraer, 101—Mar-  
 shal, 84  
 Stoneykirk, parish of, 162  
 Stranraer, parish of, 94—town of, 96—  
 its shipping, 98  
 Symson, Rev. Andrew, 12  
 Synniness castle, ruins of, 68  
 Tarf water, the, 196  
 Tides, the, in Portpatrick bay, 134  
 Tirally bay, 201  
 Torhouse, Druidical remains at, 2  
 Towns and villages—Cairnryan, 92—  
   Clayhole, 94—Drumore, 200—Garlie-  
   ston, 33—Glenluce, 71, 74—Iale of  
   Whithorn, 55, 58—Monreith, 47—  
   Newtonstewart, 187—Portlogan, 200  
   —Portpatrick, 153—Stranraer, 96—

- Tradeston, 94—Whithorn, 54—Wigton, 6
- Trees, remarkable, at Sorbie, 26
- Urus, head of, found in the marl, 41
- Vaux, Alexander, Bishop of Galloway, 12—Sir Patrick, 19
- Wages, rates of, 18, 31, 47, 56, 72, 90, 116, 127, 149, 182, 211
- Walker, George, martyr, 4
- Wallace, General Sir Alexander, 85
- Weather, prognostics of the, 23, 31
- Whithorn, parish of, 52—priory, 54—town, 54
- Wigtonshire, general observations on, 218—bays of, 220—ecclesiastical statistics, 223, 230—families of, 225—history, 223—origin of the name, 1, 223
- Wigton bay, 11, 24—castle, ruins of, 2—monastery, 3—parish of, 1—town, 6, 8
- Wilson, Margaret, martyrdom of, 3
- Woods, see Plantations
- Young, Sir Peter, 7
- Zoology, 12, 25, 67, 83, 95, 108, 125, 136, 170, 202

SEP 25 1917









